Faith is a key doctrine and a subject of importance in the Bible.

We are saved by faith Eph. 2:8
We walk by faith 2 Cor. 5:7
God is pleased by faith Heb. 11:6
What we do apart Rom. 14:23
from faith is sin

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17So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."

Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

—|ames 2:14-18 ESV

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Faith and Works
A Great Contradiction?

14What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

Dissonance

Musically, it means lack of harmony.

Practically, it means tension or clash resulting from the combination of two disharmonious or unsuitable elements.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

—Romans 3:21-24, 27-28 ESV

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

-Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

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Is this a biblical contradiction?
How do we bring resolution?

> They each spoke to a different context.

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"Justification is the act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous on the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross. It is not a process; it is an act. It is not something the sinner does; it is something God does for the sinner when he or she trusts Christ. It is a once-for-all event. It never changes."

—Warren Wiersbe

James says, "The faith that works matters and faith that doesn't work doesn't matter."

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¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

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l⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

—Matthew 7:16-20 ESV

> They each spoke with different concerns.

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"[James and Paul] are not soldiers of different armies fighting against each other, but soldiers of the same army fighting back to back against enemies coming from opposite directions."

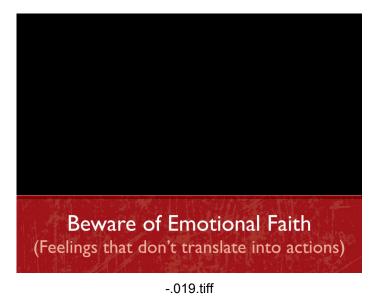
—W.H. Griffith Thomas

Faith and Works

An Inseparable Interaction!

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Beware of Intellectual Faith

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²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as

righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

Faith and Works

A Life-Changing Validation

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²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

—James 2:21-26 ESV

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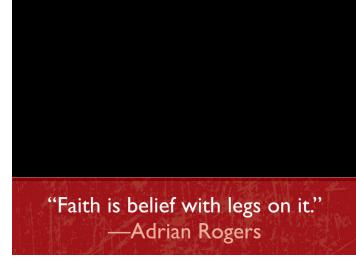
The result of genuine faith is

obedience to God.

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"by grace... through faith... for good works" (Ephesians 2:8-10)

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"There is a belief which is not nominal, but real, so far as it goes, and yet is miserably defective, wholly ineffectual as regards our highest, our eternal interests. It is a bare assent to doctrines... the class of persons whose faith is of this kind... may be perfectly sound indeed great sticklers for orthodoxy."

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"They may range themselves on the side of evangelical principles and parties. They may even lead the van in condending for the doctrines and institutions of religion. But the works of faith and labors of love are awanting... O, my brethren, rest not for a moment in believing after that fashion! It is defective, it is worthless." —John Adams

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