

"Faith and Works" Questions and Answers

Is justification by faith alone (Paul's stance), or by faith and works (James' stance)? Is there a hopeless contradiction between Paul and James... or are they both somehow right?

James 2:18-20 (without quotation marks)

But someone may well say, You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

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- **James' point in v17 & 20:**

- *faith and works work together to save you from a worthless life*
- *so you need both*

- **Objector must say the opposite:**

- *faith and works are unrelated*
- *so I'm fine with faith alone*

- **Objector in v18... Command**

"James, let's say for the sake of argument that you have faith alone, while I have taken your advice and followed my faith with works. Now, show me your faith without your works and I'll show you my faith by my works."

- **Objector in v19... Proof**

"James, you have correct, orthodox faith in God plus you do good works. Guess what? The demons have the same orthodox faith you do, and yet rather than do good deeds, they tremble in fear of God."

- **Objector's Point:**

- *You have true faith + works*
- *Demons have true faith w/o works*
- *Therefore...*
 - *faith and works are unrelated*
 - *so I'm fine with faith alone*