

Faith and works



Real faith and good works belong together. Just a profession of faith, without reality, can't save (v14). You may talk much about faith, but it has to be shown by works, otherwise faith is dead (vv20+26). Works are the fruits of faith (compare Matthew 7:16-20).

Only faith in the perfect work of the Lord Jesus Christ saves; but your works confirm or show to others the genuineness of your faith (v18).

Works of faith are not necessarily "good works" in the usual sense. Abraham was about to kill his son and Rahab committed treason. However, both were acts of faith, recognised as such by God and rewarded. Abraham proved his love to God and Rahab love to the people of God. – How are these things with you?



9. Read Proverbs 11:24-26. – Why is it worthwhile to give something to someone in need (vv15-16)?

10. If you compare verse 21 with Romans 4:2, you will notice an apparent contradiction. How can you explain it?



Don't only talk about your faith. Live it!



9. God promises a special blessing to those who are willing to give. At the time of the Old Testament this blessing consisted of earthly goods. In Christian times the same promise is true, but the blessing of God is now spiritual (not visible) blessing. For example, God gives you real joy and makes you happy inside if you give something to someone. 10. The apostle Paul speaks of justification before God – and that is only by faith. James speaks of justification before men – and that's where works count, because the faith in the heart is not noticeable as such by others.