
tion of God, who has raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

Faith that Continues

Some say the faith that saves is a one time act. Once one believes in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, he is saved and cannot be lost regardless of whether he continues to be faithful, obeying and working for the Lord.

This idea is contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures. One must continue in faith working and obeying (Acts 14:22; Romans 11:22; Colossians 1:23; 1 Timothy 2:15), striving, serving and sacrificing (Philippians 1:27; 2:17).

One must "live by faith" (Rom. 1:17; Galatians 2:20; 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). Living by faith is exemplified by the men and women of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. "By faith Abel offered to God..." (11:4). "By faith Noah...prepared an ark..." (11:7). "By faith Abraham obeyed..." (11:8). "By faith Moses... forsook Egypt" (11:27).

But why did these live by faith? Because "without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). The writer urges us to look to and

learn from these examples of faith and "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2). Jesus promised "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

What kind of faith do you have? Don't stop with a faith that is alone. Put your faith to work and obey God. Repent, confess and be baptized into Christ. Continue to be faithful to the Lord living by faith and working by love.

This is the 3rd of a series of 3 tracts

1st tract: "By Grace Are Ye Saved..."

2nd tract: "...Through Faith"

3rd tract: "Faith that Worketh by Love"

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"Even so faith,
if it hath not works,
is dead, being alone"

James 2:17

"Faith that Worketh by Love"

God's Gift of Salvation

3rd of a Series of 3 Tracts



Wayne Greeson

“Faith that **Worketh** by Love”

God’s Gift of Salvation

A commonly held religious belief is that men are saved by faith alone without any works. This doctrine is inconsistent with the scriptures and misunderstands true faith and works.

Not Faith Alone

“Faith alone” is found only once in the scriptures in James 2:17. “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” A faith that saves cannot be a faith alone without works.

A faith that is alone or a faith only, is an imperfect faith (James 2:22), a faith that does not justify (James 2:24), a dead faith (James 2:20, 26) and a faith that cannot save (James 2:14).

Faith that Works

Many erroneously believe that faith excludes any and all works and law. Yet James wrote, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). While the scriptures tell us that faith excludes certain kinds of works, it is clear there are works faith includes.

The works of the flesh are acts of unrighteousness and condemn instead of save (Galatians 5:19-21). Paul repeatedly warns that faith in Jesus Christ excludes the works of the Law of Moses and the sign of circumcision which cannot justify or make righteous (Romans 3:28; 4:9-14; 9:30-32; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9). These works do not save.

Likewise, the works of one’s self will never save. These are works men do to save themselves without God. These works are works of boasting and without God’s authority (Acts 7:41; 2 Timothy 1:9). Paul speaks of this kind of works when he wrote that we are saved, “not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:9).

In the next verse Paul speaks favorably of a different kind of works. Christians “are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Saving faith must include these works for Paul tells us that a “faith that worketh by love” availeth

(Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 6:23; 1 Timothy 1:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:8). And Paul commends Christians for their “work of faith, and labour of love” (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

These are “the works of God,” works that God has willed for those of faith to work (John 6:28-29). These are works of faith that justify men (James 2:24). “Seest thou how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect? (James 2:19).

Faith that Obeys

Faith does not void God’s law but establishes God’s “law of faith” through Christ (Romans 3:27, 31; Galatians 6:2). Saving faith obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 6:7; Romans 1:5; 16:26).

Faith’s first steps of obedience to enter into God’s grace and its promises is belief, repentance, confession and baptism. Baptism is an obedient act of faith. Jesus tied faith and baptism together for salvation when he promised, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). Paul wrote that those who become Christians are “buried with him in baptism, wherein also (they) are risen with him through faith of the opera-

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