

Faith Without Works Is Unproductive

(Part 1)

James 2:14-19



John 5:24 (ESV)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”



3 Tenses Of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	PRESENT	Future
Saved from SIN'S:	Penalty	POWER	Presence
Nature	Single (old)	Dual (old & new)	Single (new)
Scripture	Eph. 2:8-9 Titus 3:5 John 3:17	Jam. 1:21; 5:20 1 Tim. 4:16 Php. 2:12-13	Rom. 5:9-10 Rom. 13:11 1 Cor. 3:15

Why is James misunderstood?

- a. Ignoring the context
- b. 'Anachronistic fallacy': insisting that words mean the same thing all the time (ignoring *historical* meaning)
- c. Reading Paul into James



Paul and James: same words, different meanings

	JAMES' meaning	PAUL'S meaning
“Justified”/“Justification”	Evidence of a believer's faith before man	Declared innocent before God
“Faith”	Serving	Saving
“Works”	A believer's moral deeds	Earning God's favor
“Save”/“Salvation”	Sanctification (middle tense)	Justification (past tense)

“The justified one, having become what he is by faith, must go ahead living on the same principle of utter dependence upon God.” (Chafer)

Eph. 2:8-9 (ESV)

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



Php. 2:12-13 (ESV)

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13)for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”



Jam. 1:21 (ESV)

“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”



Jam. 5:19-20 (ESV)

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, (20)let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”



James 2:14-26 summary

v. 14: “Can a Christian be productive (sanctified, a blessing to others, pleasing to God, receiving rewards) without accompanying works? **NO!**”

5 examples/proofs (vv. 15-26):

- Vv. 15-17: Brother/sister in need
- Vv. 18-19: Even demons respond
- Vv. 20-24: Abraham
- V. 25: Rahab
- V. 26: Lifeless body

v. 19 isn't about 'head' faith vs. 'heart' faith

1. James is not sharing the Gospel message
2. Demons aren't offered salvation
3. Demons do believe

Matt. 10:8 (NIV)

“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”



1 John 3:17 (ESV)

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”



2 Cor. 8:14 (ESV)

“your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.”



1 John 5:13 (ESV)

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 5:24 (ESV)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Acts 16:30-31 (ESV)

“Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’” (31) And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”



Matt. 8:28-29 (ESV)

“And when He came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. (29)And behold, they cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’”

