

Faith Without Works Is Unproductive

(Part 3)

James 2:25—3:6



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)

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!**” (vv. 17, 20, 24, 26)

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





Josh. 2:9-11 (ESV)

“...‘I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. (10)For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. (11)And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.’”

Matt. 27:50 (NIV)

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.”



Acts 7:59 (ESV)

“And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”



1 Cor. 3:12-15 (ESV)

“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—(13)each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. (14)If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. (15)If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”

James outline so far:

1. Embrace trials (1:2-18)
2. Be hearers and doers of the Word (1:19-27)
3. Don't show favoritism (2:1-13)
4. Make sure your faith shows by works (2:14-26)
5. Control your tongue (3:1-12)

Luke 12:48 (ESV)

“...Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”





Pr. 18:21 (ESV)

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”



Eph. 4:29 (ESV)

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

Eph. 5:4 (ESV)

“Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”

Col. 4:6 (ESV)

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Rom. 14:9 (ESV)

“So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”



Pr. 15:1 (ESV)

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Pr. 29:11 (ESV)

“A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.”

