

4: This True Equation and its blessed results: **Faith = Salvation → Works**

This is the truth:

- “But now a righteousness FROM God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness FROM God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (NIV Romans 3:21-22).
- Since God demands us to be *perfectly* right in His sight, *He also provides that righteousness as a gift! We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ* (Ephesians 2:8)! Furthermore, those who *have Christ also have salvation* (1 John 5:11-13)! All such people are so thankful for the gift of heaven that – *being led and empowered by the Spirit* – they do good works, *not to earn God’s favor, but to thank Him for His gift of heaven!*

It is helpful to understand **passive faith** in comparison to **active faith**:

- Passive faith saves – by trusting in Christ *alone* for eternal life.
- Active faith serves – by loving his neighbor *according to his needs*.
- Passive and Active Faith Example: “What good is it, my brothers, if a man **claims** to have [*passive*] faith but has no deeds [*active faith*]? Can such faith save him? [*The implied answer is “no”*] Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs [*exercises no*

active faith], what good is it? In the same way, [*the claim of passive*] faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action [*active faith*], is dead” (NIV James 2:14-17). *Whenever passive faith is real, active faith will be the result!*

People who **know the truth**:

- They *have* saving faith, thus forgiveness, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, spiritual life, and eternal salvation!
- They *trust alone in Jesus as their Savior!*
- They believe Jesus has *finished everything necessary* for their entrance into heaven!

The **blessed results of this equation**:

faith = salvation → works

- Such people are certain of heaven – *because they know Jesus has satisfied all of God’s demands!*
- Such people will be with God forever – *as **God** works to keep them in Christ through His word!*

For more on this topic, see this brochure:

“Will Jesus Welcome Me into Heaven?”

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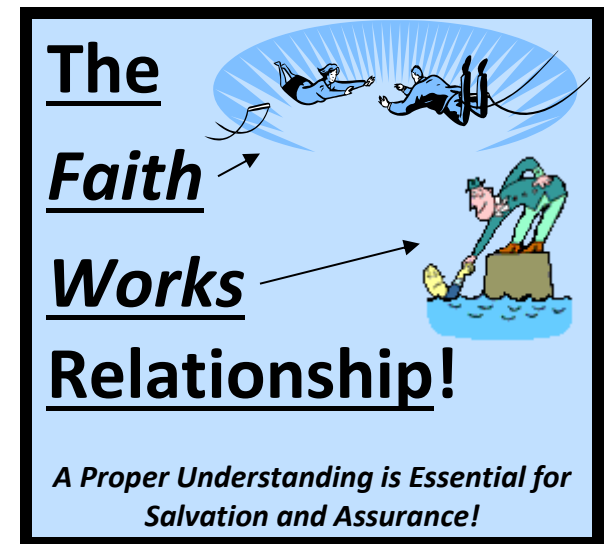
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Introduction

Dear friends, it is very important for everyone to understand these two words and how they relate to each other:

- **Faith** → Trust in Jesus for eternal life: He is God’s Son, who *lived without sin and received the punishment for our sin!*
- **Works** → Our action, *which comes from our faith*, to love God and our neighbor!

This brochure explains:

1. **Faith and works** in more detail!
2. **Three common misunderstandings** about the faith – works relationship!
3. **This false equation** and its sad results: **faith + works = salvation**
4. **This true equation** and its blessed results: **faith = salvation → works**

Please read, learn, and be eternally blessed!

1: The Definitions of Faith and Works in more detail!

What is faith? It includes these *three essential ingredients* (KAT); notice the emphasis on **God**:

- **Knowledge** – **God** enables us to *know the truth!*
- **Agreement** – **God** enables us to *agree with the truth!*
- **Trust** – **God** enables us to *trust in Jesus as our Savior!*

There are many kinds of faith:

These give *false* assurance:

- ☹ **Temporary Faith** – only for a time.
- ☹ **Blind Faith** – alleged assent to doctrines apart from knowledge.
- ☹ **General Faith** – belief in God apart from the forgiveness of sins.

These *unite us to Jesus, the only Savior*:

- ☺ **Final Faith** – remains until death.
- ☺ **Justifying Faith** – justifies the sinner.
- ☺ **Proper Faith** – true personal faith.
- ☺ **Actual Faith** – truly grasps the grace of Christ and saves.
- ☺ **Direct Faith** – lays hold of grace.
- ☺ **Special Faith** – seizes salvation.
- ☺ **Divine Faith** – created by the Holy Spirit through the Word.

What are works? The good things *Christians* do – *resulting from their faith* – to follow God’s Word and love their neighbor. Works are never added to faith, but result from faith. See below for more!

2: Three Common Misunderstandings about the Faith – Works Relationship!

1. **If I try hard enough to keep God’s commands, I will go to heaven!** *That is logical, but not Biblical!* Since all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and God demands a sinless life (Matthew 5:20, 48), *no one has the ability* to ever remove, cover up, or counter balance his sins (Matthew 7:22-23)!
2. **I know something about God, so I must have faith in God!** Though most people do know something about God, most are not heaven-bound because they live without repentance → *without sorrow for their sins and without faith in Jesus alone for God’s forgiveness!*
3. **The Bible contradicts itself:**
 - a. **Sometimes it says we are saved by faith** → “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law” (NAS Romans 3:28).
 - b. **Other times it says we are saved by works** → “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself” (NAS James 2:17).
 - c. **This is how those two verses are reconciled:** We are justified, *thus saved*, by grace through faith in Christ alone! However, all who have

received Christ as their Savior WILL ALSO DESIRE to honor Him by living according to the Bible! Therefore, those who *SAY they have faith* but *have no works* do not actually have a faith that saves. *Whenever saving faith is present, good works will always follow!* (Compare Rom. 3:21-26 with James 2:14-26.)

3: This False Equation and its sad results: Faith + Works = Salvation

Many *falsely* reason like this: I know something about God (*so I must have faith in God*); also, I’m not that bad, I try to do the right thing, and I try to help others, so I *think my faith + my works* will get me to heaven!

People who *falsely* reason in that manner:

- *Do not* have saving faith!
- Trust at least *in part* in what they do (not in Jesus Christ alone)!
- Deny Jesus’ victory cry: “It is finished” (John 19:30); then they try to add to Jesus’ finished work with their own work!

The *sad* results of faith + works = salvation:

- Such people are never certain of heaven – *because they never know if they have done enough good works!*
- Such people will spend eternity apart from God – *if they continue in their present state* – because they trusted in their knowledge of God and their own good works, rather than in Jesus Christ – *God’s only Son, our only Savior* (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)!