

Faith

That Works



The Apostle Paul and James Agree On How To
Be Justified With God; Faith Alone In Jesus Christ.

D O N G E R R I T Y

Faith That Works

By Don E. Gerrity

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Gospel Of Grace

“For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)

Many people believe that the Bible is not true and that Jesus is not God. Many who do not believe though are simply seeing the irony, hypocrisy and corruption in Christian religious organizations and denominations. They see Christians in general as *pious*, pointing their noses down at unbelievers and people who *think they are better* and they attribute that with the Word of God. But is that the truth? No. It is the Christian RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS pushing the negativity. Telling others to BE GOOD or GOD WILL GET YOU! Yet, all the while we hear of child molestation in the church, preachers caught in indecent and unlawful acts, coveting for monetary riches and worse. Do not get me wrong. I am not talking about ALL priests and pastors who are truly serving God. **GOD BLESS THEM!!** But to the unsaved people out there, this is all they hear on the news. It is all they see and it makes them angry. Heck, it makes ME ANGRY!

The real problem here is that the vast majority of Christian religious organizations and denominations are not teaching the Biblical **Gospel of Grace** that Apostle Paul taught. Most of these organizations teach false gospel messages such as the rampant prosperity gospel (God wants to make you rich) of TV evangelists, the extreme coveting of works based salvation gospel (It is what you DO that matters. Do more good than bad and then MAYBE you will make it to heaven.), the word of faith movement false gospel (just say the right words with ENOUGH faith) and the list goes on and on.

Salvation and Justification with God are not based on any of these false Gospels and if members of these organizations would read their Bible to see if the teachings of their pulpit lines up, they will quickly come to the truth. I say, Let the Word Of God be true. And every man a liar.

AMEN.

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Chapter 1

Do Not Add The Law Of Moses To Our Justification

If you look through all the Epistles of Paul it is very evident that he taught that Salvation is by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ, without works nor rituals of any kind. Obeying The Law Of Moses (Including the Ten Commandments) will not save a person because it is impossible for us to do that with the sin nature we all have. That all of us are sinners headed for the judgement of God, God's wrath, and are desperately wicked. That Salvation is something that happens in a moment of time and at that moment of Repentance (changing mind/view about sin) by accepting through faith the forgiveness of all your life's sins by the act of atonement Jesus provided to us all for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). This is what Paul taught. Let's look at some of the many Scriptures and teachings of Paul on this subject and you can see for yourself.

*“For by **GRACE** are ye saved **THOROUGH FAITH**; and that **NOT of yourselves**: it is the **GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS**, lest any man should **BOAST**.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

*“For there is **ONE** God, and **ONE** mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself **A RANSOM** for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2: 5-6 KJV)*

*“Now to the one who **WORKS**, his wage is **NOT RECKONED** on the basis of **GRACE**, but as what is **DUE**. But to **the one who DOES NOT WORK, but BELIEVES in Him (Jesus) WHO JUSTIFIES the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as RIGHTEOUSNESS.**” (Romans 4:4-5 KJV)*

*“Knowing that a man is **NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF The Law Of Moses, but BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST, even we have BELIEVED in Jesus Christ, that we might BE JUSTIFIED by the FAITH OF CHRIST, and NOT BY THE WORKS OF The Law Of Moses: FOR BY THE WORKS OF The Law Of Moses SHALL NO FLESH BE***

***JUSTIFIED..** But if, while we seek to be justified **BY CHRIST**, we ourselves also are **FOUND SINNERS**, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make **MYSELF** a transgressor. **For I through The Law Of Moses am dead to The Law Of Moses, that I might live unto God.** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, **but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: **for IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COME BY The Law Of Moses, THEN CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.**" (Galatians 2:16-21 KJV)*

*"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into **the grace of Christ unto another gospel:** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ.** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED.**" (Galatians 2:6-8 KJV)*

In Galatians, there were those who came and started telling the believers that in order to be saved, the practices of The Law Of Moses are also required and not faith alone in Christ. That is that works and rituals of The Law Of Moses are also still required. Paul called this a 'perversion' of the Gospel of Christ. He called it 'another Gospel', that is to say a fake gospel message. And he says that it is a very serious matter. So serious that those that add anything to the Gospel message of faith in Christ alone as the way to Salvation are to be 'accursed'. If a person's righteousness come by following The Law Of Moses, then Christ died for our sins, **in vain**. If a person believes they can work away their sin debt by following The Law Of Moses (by *doing good works and being a good person*) they do so in complete PRIDE. They are saying they have a self righteousness that will lead to Salvation because they are following The Law Of Moses. They are saying that Christ's Sacrifice for our sins was not sufficient. **God forbid!** This will never work.

Chapter 2

No One Is Righteous By Their Works

In Romans 2, Paul is talking about the fact that both Jew and Gentile needs Salvation (a gentile is anyone not a Jew). The Jews were saying that they had some kind of advantage over the Gentiles because after all they were God's chosen people. The written Word Of God and The Law Of Moses (Ten Commandments) was after all given to them through Moses and not through Gentiles. However, Paul points out that the Jews are just as guilty as the Gentiles,

*"Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, **whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.** But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. **And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?**"*
(Romans 2:1-3 KJV)

*"For as many as have sinned without law shall also **perish without law: and as many as have sinned in The Law Of Moses shall be judged by The Law Of Moses;**"* (Romans 2:12 KJV)

*"Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in The Law Of Moses, and makest thy boast of God, and knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of The Law Of Moses; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in The Law Of Moses. **Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?"***
(Romans 2: 17-22 KJV)

Paul is stating clearly to the Jews that they are no different in God's eyes in regards to Salvation because they also sin against The Law Of Moses of God, just as the Gentiles do. They are boasting in God because God made them the chosen people of the world through whom the Word Of God and The Law Of Moses came. But Paul tells them that their own thoughts like this condemn them in the judgment of God. **To God, sin is sin.** If you disobey any point of the Ten Commandments, you are guilty before God. We are all guilty before God regardless of your social status and good works. Neither will save you. Neither will erase the stain of sin in your life.

In Romans 3, Paul gets right to the point. He acknowledges that the Jews are a special people and a chosen people. But he shows them that they need Salvation through Jesus Christ. He is discussing the Jews and the Gentiles . The Jews followed The Law Of Moses, the Gentiles do not because The Law Of Moses was NEVER even given to the Gentiles. Here we see that Paul shows the Jews that ALL HAVE SINNED and ALL are guilty before God of sin. No one is right with God. All are headed for the wrath of God because of our sin. When Paul says 'Are we *better than they?*' the we is the Jews because Paul was a Jew.

*“What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.”
(Romans 3: 9 KJV)*

Paul is telling us straight out that ALL are under sin. That is to say, we all have this *sin nature problem*. Every person! Were you born on Earth? Yep.. you have a SIN PROBLEM! Jesus is the only one that never sinned because he was born of God through the virgin Mary (Luke 1:27). He was not even born in sin! Jesus was God in the flesh (Colossians 1:15-19) and we know that God NEVER sins.

Then Paul uses the Word Of God in the Torah (what we now call the Old Testament) to make this clear to these Jews. He does this by providing quite a number of Old Testament Scriptures to back up what he is telling them. He is reminding them and letting them know, these are not just Paul's own thoughts, it is the Word Of God that states this clearly.

“As it is written:

***“There is none righteous, no, not one;
There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.
They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.”***
*“Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced
deceit”;*
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;
“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”
*“Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their
ways; And the way of peace they have not known.”*
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

*Now we know that whatever The Law Of Moses says, it says to those who
are under The Law Of Moses, that every mouth may be stopped, and all
the world may become guilty before God. **Therefore by the deeds of The
Law Of Moses no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by The Law
Of Moses is the knowledge of sin.**” (Romans 3:10-20 KJV)*

The Law Of Moses was not provided to humankind so that we could be justified before God by obeying The Law Of Moses. The Law Of Moses was provided by God so we could see just how horribly sinful we really are. The Law Of Moses is like a mirror, showing us our sins that we can't see ourselves. Not by comparing ourselves to others who do more wicked things, but by comparing ourselves to God's perfect standard of Holiness, The Law Of Moses, the Ten Commandments of God.

We are all sinners who require the Mercy of God to avoid God's judgment for our sins. There is NOTHING we can do in self righteous acts that will atone for our sins. That is why the high priest of the Jews had to Sacrifice a Lamb without blemish to atone for the sins of the people. It was a foreshadowing of the one and final sacrifice for the sins we commit, through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world on the cross. (Hebrews 12).

Now let's look what Jesus Himself had to say about this. The people asked Jesus a very direct question. This is the perfect opportunity for Christ to tell the whole crowd clearly what exactly is the will of God for us sinners?

*“Then said they unto him, **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?** Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.** They said therefore unto him, **What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.***

*Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.***

*Then said they unto him, **Lord, evermore give us this bread.** And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.** But I said unto you, **That ye also have seen me, and believe not.** All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:28-37 KJV)*

Jesus then goes on to tell the people what the WILL of God is,

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6: 38-40 KJV)

Jesus did not answer these questions about *how do we do the works of God and what is God’s will for me* by responding with, DO THIS, or DO THAT. You need THIS RITUAL or that ritual. What Jesus responded with instead was '*This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*' and '*believe on the Son of God*'. It is not about works, it is about belief in Christ for the remissions of your sins. Salvation is God’s work, not our work. We should have NO BOASTING in it at all. (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our part to be saved is to believe that Christ died

and shed His blood on the cross and paid the penalty for the sins we commit during our life. And to accept this free pardon gift *by faith alone*, without anything else added.

And you need to realize that God chose Paul to show us the entirety of the Gospel of Grace through Christ. Paul is the writer of two thirds of the New Testament! That carries a lot of weight does it not?

Chapter 3

What did James Mean Saying 'Faith Without Works Is Dead'?

Some take a verse here and a verse there out of the book of James and then make enormous assumptions that James and Paul are contradicting each other. But when you look at James in context, nothing is further from the truth. In fact, James believed the same as Paul did.

In James he references the audience he is writing too many times. He is not writing to unsaved people. He is writing to the 'Brethren' and so the audience here are believers. They are people who are already 100% forgiven and have accepted the Gift of eternal life and the atonement for our sins through faith in Christ. They are forever righteous and redeemed and headed for Heaven.

I know that many of you reading this are already going straight to the verses in James 2 that seem to contradict Paul's Gospel of Salvation by Faith alone, without works.

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17 KJV)

Here we see that James is addressing “my brethren” and is talking about a dead faith. He asks, ‘what shall it profit’. There are some who know the facts about Jesus. They believe that Jesus existed. They believe that Jesus performed miracles. But they do not have a saving faith. They believe intellectually but they have not accepted Christ in faith of the atonement He provided. As such, the Holy Spirit does not dwell inside of them.

However, is that what James means here in this passage of Scripture? No. Why? Because James is addressing the BRETHREN, the believers – not unbelievers. He is addressing believers who are already saved eternally.

Many people when they read verses 14-17 think that dead means, not in existence. They say that this means such a person is not saved because their faith is dead, or not true faith. But again, in proper context, James is speaking to the brethren. He is addressing saved people here and he is not talking about their justification before God in regards to Salvation.

The word DEAD in this verse in the Greek is ‘nekros’ and used as a metaphor has a meaning of *‘being spiritually dead, destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God, because given up to trespasses and sins, inactive as respects doing right destitute of force or power, inactive, inoperative.’*

James is not saying that such people are no longer saved. He is not saying they are dead and not part of the brethren. No, he is addressing saved people and is using the word dead as a metaphor. James is addressing believers that they should be walking by the spirit and not by the flesh. We are to avoid being carnal Christians just as Paul taught to the Corinthians.

Again, context is very important. We cannot just take a few verses and ignore all the others in the same book, and in fact the rest of the Bible, and turn James into a person in opposition to the Gospel of Salvation without works as a requirement. James is not in opposition to the Gospel of Salvation by faith without works required in regards to our justification. He is not even talking about our justification in Christ in this passage of Scripture! He is talking about how we are walking and living after our justification and Salvation. James 2 starts with the very first word as 'MY BRETHREN'. He is talking to those saved by believing on Christ alone for Salvation.

“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not

then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” (James 2:1-12 KJV).

James is telling us that as saved people, we should not be judging people solely by their wealth. Rich or poor, we are all rich in Christ. Both rich and poor are on equal standing before God as He is no respecter of persons. As believers, how are we living? Are we living for God or are we walking in carnality? We should be helping the poor and we should be living Godly lives and following the example Jesus gave us. Pray for your enemies, help the poor, do unto others as you would have them do unto you etc. This is living a life of liberty in Christ!

James is asking a good question to these believers. If you see someone in need and just pray for them but do not help them, is your faith in Christ for Salvation going to save you? But the question is, save you from what? Some think James is talking about our justification and our Salvation here but he is not. James is not talking about being a saved believer. The people James is addressing here are already saved Brethren. He is talking about saving them from consequences in their lives and consequences of lost rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.

“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily

food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

What judgment is being spoke of here? Judgment into eternal damnation? CONTEXT! No, again James is addressing believers! This is the judgment seat of Christ at the Bema Seat. It is the judgment seat of believers just after the Rapture. After the Rapture means these believers will already be resurrected and in Heaven at this judgment. It is a judgment of rewards and how you lived after being saved by Christ. Also notice, James uses the word 'profit'. He is talking about our works since we have been saved, as believers. Are we walking by the spirit, helping others in love, or are we living carnally and walking by the flesh without regard to loving others for Christ? A believer should be walking by the spirit. That is lining up with what God wants in our lives and then he can place desires in our heart to perform good works which God has placed before us to accomplish. At the judgment seat of Christ believers will be rewarded for such good works done with the right motives of love for others. The wrong motive is doing good works to save us!

But those believers living carnally, that choose to walk by the flesh all the time and live in constant sin, ignoring mercy to others and not helping those in need should wake up! Yes, they are saved and their sins forgiven. Yes, they are justified and righteous in Christ. Yes, they are Heaven bound! However, that does not mean they have been given a license to sin without consequences. That does not mean they should sit on their high horse and ignore those in need. Is that what Jesus did? No, it is not. This is the dead faith James is writing about. It is the dead faith of some believers!

James is asking them, will the fact that they in faith received the GIFT of Salvation through Christ save them from the consequences in life and loss of rewards at the judgment seat of Christ? The answer is definitely NO! They will face the consequences in a life squandered. Living a life useless for God they will fall into all kinds of trouble with consequences in this Earthly life (steal..go to jail still applies!) and also consequences at the judgment of believers after the Rapture, where they could find themselves with little or no reward. Such carnal Christians, will weep in great regret, looking at how they lived after Christ saved them with such love.

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26 KJV)

Again, the word 'dead' here is being used as a metaphor. A persons dead body is pretty much useless to help anyone in need or do anything useful. It is there, lifeless and will eventually rot away. If believers are just living in constant sin and being carnal by living constantly in the flesh instead of walking by the spirit, they have become useless. Their faith is dead. Are they are still saved? Yes. Are they much use in this life in helping others see the love of God? No. Some believers are so carnal, God may even decide to take them out of here by taking their physical life. They have become useless to help others find Christ.

We see the same thing in John 15 which also addresses believers. We need to be abiding in Christ and Christ’s words so that God can place desires in our heart to accomplish good works he has set before us.

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:5-8 KJV)

SHOWING YOUR FAITH BY YOUR WORKS

“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2:18-19 KJV)

In verses 18-19, James makes another point. They have faith that God exists. But will that alone save a person from their sin debt against God? James is not saying that it is the works that save a person. He is talking about the evidence of a truly

saved person. You know a person can go to church daily and talk the talk. They can quote doctrine and Scriptures. They have head knowledge. It is good to have head knowledge but you need more than that to save you. Having head knowledge about Scriptures is not the same as repentance and asking God to forgive you for all your sins because Christ died for you. If a person believes with head knowledge only, but has not received the gift of Salvation through faith in Christ's atonement, and thinks they can just keep on living how ever they want without consequences, they would be wrong. That is the wrong kind of faith. That is faith only intellectually. Such faith is DEAD. It is a faith based solely on works. It is useless for the total life long list of sins committed and useless for remission of a person's sins.

James makes a strong point that even Satan and his fallen angels have faith that God exists. They know that Jesus is the Son Of God right? The demons Jesus cast out acknowledged Christ as Lord, but are those fallen angels saved or damned to hell? Do you think Satan knows what the Bible says? Yes. And he takes it all as true by faith and what is he doing? He is using it to kill us by jamming the Law down our throats to make us feel guilty before God after Salvation. He is constantly accusing us of our sins before God (Revelation 12:10). Just believing and just knowing the facts with head knowledge DOES NOT SAVE A PERSON.

What kinds of works are the fallen angels doing do you think? The Bible says EVIL WORKS. And so James is saying that 'I will show you my faith BY my works' . A true believer, in faith, should have some evidence in Godly works, good works. Evidence that they are actually saved. Not that the works are what saves them. Notice James did not say that 'my works are required to be saved'. James says that I will show you my faith BY my works. James is talking about good works of God as an evidence of Salvation. The evidence is produced by the Holy Spirit within a believer. That is an important distinction to make.

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” (James 2:20-22 KJV)

Here again, if we were to stop reading James 2 at this verse it seems like the meaning is that it is the works that save. That is not what James is saying. He is again talking about the faith that is head knowledge only. He is bringing up Abraham who is known as ‘*the Father of our faith*’ right? If we continue to the very next verse we see,

“And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:23-24 KJV)

Abraham was not justified and saved by the act of the works. It was his FAITH in what God had previously PROMISED HIM that pushed him forward to do the works that God commanded. But God worked on Abraham’s faith for a LONG time before God tested his faith in telling him to sacrifice his only son. Abraham learned what the true God was like and what God’s character is. God never changes and He is a good God, amen? A perfectly righteous God. A perfectly JUST God! God had made a promise that “for in Isaac your seed shall be called” (Genesis 21:12). Long before this when God called Abraham to leave for a new land God made promises to Abraham and by his works we can see the evidence that he believed them in the proper saving faith,

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3 KJV)

How are all the families of the Earth today blessed because of these promises of God to Abraham and the faith that Abraham had to do what God told him to do? God is promising Abraham that through his seed and blood line he would make a nation which we know today as the nation of Israel. And how do we know that Israel has blessed all the families of the earth? Because of the one that came out of the bloodline of Israel, Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and the Savior of the world. It is because of Jesus Christ that the world is blessed.

In Genesis we see what Abraham says when he decides on going to the place God told him to go to Sacrifice his son Issac,

*“And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.”
(Genesis 22:5 KJV)*

What stands out in this verse? It is some VERY important words 'I AND THE LAD', in essence 'WE'. You see God had taught Abraham who He really is. Abraham had complete trust in God to always be good and do the just thing. Over the years, he learned that God is faithful and can be trusted. He did have a son as promised by God, even though his wife Sarah was in her older years and barren. It was not as Abraham expected the promise to be fulfilled by God, but it was fulfilled. It increased his faith in God.

Abraham tells his young helpers that ‘we will come back to you’. He did not say ‘I will come back to you’. Abraham is showing his faith! That is his complete faith that God would never allow him to actually murder his son unrighteously. And even if he did, he knew that God would have to raise him from the dead because God had already promised Abraham that it is through Issac’s bloodline, ‘I will make you a great nation’. Later we see Issac asking his father Abraham,

“And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.” (Genesis 22:7-8 KJV)

Again we see Abraham exercising his full faith and assurance that God would provide a Lamb in place of his son for the sacrifice. Abraham knew this must be a test of his faith and trust in God. God has never shown him to be like this. It moved forward with full faith in God and the attributes of God.

WAS IT WORKS THAT SAVED ABRAHAM? OR FAITH IN GOD?

It was his faith and the works of carrying out what God said to do *was the evidence of his true faith*. This is what James is talking about. It is that evidence should exist in those that have saving faith. But not that the evidence is what saves you. We should be walking by the spirit, not the flesh. And we also see that James is using the same exact Scriptures as Paul did in Romans 4 where Paul writes,

*“What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; **but not before God.** For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.** Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.” (Romans 4:1-7 KJV)*

Paul continues,

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” (Romans 4:13 KJV)

If James is teaching a contrary Gospel why is he using the same example as Paul? It is because James and Paul are teaching the very same Gospel. Paul also talks about works after Salvation many times in his letters.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10 KJV)

At first glance, it can seem like Paul is contradicting himself. First he says Salvation is NOT OF WORKS. Then he says ‘God prepared works for us to do beforehand’. But which came first? The GIFT! Salvation is a GIFT for all who believe in Christ and have accepted his pardon for our sins. James said,

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. ” (James 2:26 KJV)

Now we start to see the real context of what James is teaching. A truly saved person has accepted Christ and the Holy Spirit dwells in every true believer. Such a believer can be a carnal Christian, living in the flesh and sinful ways OR a believer can be walking in the spirit and living as we should in good works, as Jesus did. If you are living carnally, your faith is dead; that is, it has become useless to God and you will have to deal with consequences. Believers should be abiding in Christ and His words which will help in the renewing of your mind to God's view. We should be seeking God in the word and we should be doing unto others what we would have others do unto us, in love. That is a faith that is alive and working!

WHAT ABOUT AN UNSAVED PERSON?

In more contrast, an unbeliever, even if he knows the head knowledge of Scriptures, is still lost and without the Holy Spirit dwelling inside. Any works done without the Holy Spirit working through a person is done by a faith that is a false faith and not the Gospel preached by Jesus. It is impossible for an unbeliever's good works to save them. It is done in the flesh. Going through rituals, penance, and trying to fulfill the letter of the Law of God; it is all self righteousness and not true faith. Only works done by the Holy Spirit through a believer shows evidence of their salvation.

Like Jesus said, it is by a person's fruit that we know if they are teaching correctly or falsely. (Matthew 7:16)

Both Paul and James are telling us the same thing. Salvation is by FAITH in Jesus Christ's act of atonement alone, without works. It is a GIFT from God to be received that He will never take away from a believer (John 6:37). When that happens such a person should show Godly fruit in their lives because the Spirit of God is within them. These works that show true faith are not done in the flesh, through our own self efforts but ultimately by the efforts of the spirit of God within us. The Holy Spirit gives us the Godly desires of our heart and changes us , over time, from within and we express that outwardly. It is God's work IN US as we are IN CHRIST. However, how we live after Salvation in Christ matters greatly. That is in contrast to making ourselves look good by doing good works outwardly, yet inside we have not been changed. It is the inner being, the human heart that is the issues of life an death, eternal life or eternal death. Only God's word can help us through the Holy Spirit within.

Chapter 4

Two Kinds Of Dead Faith

In proper context, Paul and James are simply addressing two kinds of wrong faith that will not lead to Salvation:

Paul is pointing out that the OBJECT of our faith should not be in religious activities and rituals, nor in keeping the Law of Moses. It should not be in following the Law to save oneself, in self righteous works. That is not honoured by God as your justification. Our JUSTIFICATION before God is through grace alone , by faith alone, in Christ alone. The object of our faith should be the grace of God , apart from works, and Grace is a person; Jesus Christ.

James is pointing out that our faith AFTER Salvation is useless (dead) if we are not living by abiding in Christ and His words ; in love for others by our actions. And James also mentions that just knowing the facts and the head knowledge is another type of faith that will not save a person. A person needs the Holy Spirit to dwell within by believing in Christ as the ONLY way to be justified. Satan has the facts and head knowledge. He believes in God. But that is not enough. The devil's works show he is not justified. The same goes for a person that has not accepted the free gift of Salvation through Christ's atonement.

In conclusion, Paul and James are in complete agreement. They both agree that Salvation is not by good works nor rituals in self righteous acts. They also both agree that after Salvation God does have good works for believers to accomplish. However, they are good works FROM Salvation and not a requirement of Salvation, nor can a person's Salvation be lost.

Chapter 5

What Can We Learn From Abraham Through James?

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” (James 2:20-22 KJV)

Here again, if we were to stop reading James 2 at this verse it seems like the meaning is that it is the works that save. But remember that is because when James wrote this, he had ZERO knowledge of the Gospel of Paul. He is bringing up Abraham who is known as ‘the Father of our faith’ right? If we continue to the very next verse we see,

“And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:23-24 KJV)

Abraham was not justified and saved by the single act of the work. It was his FAITH in what God had previously PROMISED HIM that pushed him forward to do the works that God commanded. But God worked on Abraham’s faith for a LONG time before God tested his faith in telling him to sacrifice his only son. Abraham learned what the true God was like and what God’s character is. God never changes and He is a good God, amen? A perfectly righteous God. A perfectly JUST God! God had made a promise that “for in Isaac your seed shall be called “ (Genesis 21:12). Long before this when God called Abraham to leave for a new land God made promises to Abraham and BY HIS WORKS we can see the evidence that HE BELIEVED them in the proper saving faith,

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them

that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3 KJV)

How are all the families of the Earth today blessed because of these promises of God to Abraham and the faith that Abraham had to do what God told him to do? God is promising Abraham that through his seed and blood line he would make a nation which we know today as the nation of Israel. And how do we know that Israel has blessed all the families of the earth? Because of the one that came out of the bloodline of Israel, Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and the Savior of the world.

In Genesis we see what Abraham says when he decides on going to the place God told him to go to Sacrifice his son Issac,

*“And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I AND THE LAD will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.”
(Genesis 22:5 KJV)*

What stands out in this verse? It is one VERY important phrase and it is **‘I and the lad’**. You see God had taught Abraham who He really is. Abraham had complete trust in God to always be good and do the just thing. He learned that God is faithful. He did have a son as promised by God, even though his wife Sarah was in her older years, her barren years. It was not as Abraham expected the promise to be fulfilled by God, but it was fulfilled. It increased his faith in God.

Abraham tells his young helpers that **‘we will’** come back to you. He did not say **‘I will come back to you’**. Abraham is showing his faith! That is his complete faith that God would never allow him to actually murder his son unrighteously. And even if he did, he knew that God would have to raise him from the dead because God had already promised Abraham that it is through Issac’s bloodline, **‘I will make you a great nation’**. Later we see Issac asking his father Abraham,

“And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.” (Genesis 22:6-8 KJV)

Again we see Abraham exercising his full faith and assurance that God would provide a Lamb in place of his son for the sacrifice. Abraham knew this must be a test of his faith and trust in God. God has never shown him to be like this.

SO WAS IT ABRAHAM' S WORKS THAT SAVED HIM? OR THE BELIEF IN GOD' S PROMISES IN FAITH?

It was HIS FAITH and the works of carrying out what God said to do was the evidence of his true faith. It is that evidence should exist in those that have saving faith. We know today by the Gospel of Paul that it is not the evidence by works saves us but We should be walking by the spirit, not the flesh.

I hope this has helped in your understanding of this very common controversy between the writings of Paul and James.

Chapter 6

What Is God's Will For My Life As A Believer?

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that YE BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:28-29 KJV)

The question of God's will for our lives as believers is one that many ask and wonder about. We wonder if we are doing the will of God and performing as He wishes. We wonder and pray to God asking things such as:

- God should I marry this person? Is it your will?
- What college do you want me to attend? Which one is your will?
- Should I take this job or the other one? Which is your will?

The list of questions goes on and on. However, is the Will Of God something elusive or hard to understand? We need to turn to the Word Of God to find out what the will of God actually is and we need to understand about the Sovereignty of God in our everyday lives with the Holy Spirit living inside of us.

In John 6 Jesus was asked very directly about the Will Of God for our lives and His answer has a simplicity and beauty to it. "This is the work of God, that YE BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent." Jesus continues in John 6 and says this as to be very clear and to the point for us:

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, may HAVE EVERLASTING :LIFE: and I will raise him up at the last day."

We can see clearly here two points from Jesus. The first point is that God's ultimate will every person in the world is to believe on Christ for Salvation from our sins *by belief and*

faith that Jesus Christ is who He said He is throughout His ministry; God in the flesh. And that He lived a sinless life and died on the cross willingly to pay the penalty for our sins. We can also see here the Sovereignty Of God where Jesus states “ *that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing*”. Were you and I given to Christ back in the time of Jesus' Earthly ministry? We were not but this speaks of the truth that God foreknew every person that would accept the free gift of Salvation through faith in Christ from the very foundation of the world. Even before you or I were born! God is the great I AM THAT I AM, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **hath blessed us** with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having **PREDESTINATED** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of **his will**, To the praise of the glory of **HIS GRACE**, wherein he hath **made us accepted** in the beloved.”*
(Ephesians 1:3-6 KJV)

GOD'S WILL IS NOT AN ELUSIVE THING

God's will is not such an elusive thing as we may think. It is not meant to be something kept in secret from us. By the Word Of God we are shown the Will Of God and even by the words of Jesus Himself.

ACCEPT CHRIST WHO IS GOD'S GRACE GIFT FOR OUR SALVATION.

Salvation is Grace ALONE, through FAITH alone in the atonement provided by the Son Of God, Jesus Christ on the cross alone. Jesus tells us the will of God directly Himself! The disciples ask him directly what is the will of God for us. Jesus is thorough in His answer but He never says it is by our deeds nor works! It is BELIEF by faith alone in Jesus Christ!

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
(1 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV)

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, "This is the work of God, that YE BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent."

They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

*Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, **I AM the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that BELIEVETH on me shall never thirst.** But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, may HAVE EVERLASTING life: and I will raise him up at the last day."*
(John 6:29-40 KJV)

"For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)

BE THANKFUL AND HUMBLE, WISE AND FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, LIVING IN A HOLY PLEASING MANNER TO GOD

“Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37 KJV)

Do not judge others as if they are more a sinner than you after your Salvation. Please brothers and sisters in Christ, know this; God hates a haughty spirit. God hates the sin of pride.

*“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
(Proverbs 16:18 KJV)*

Avoid wrongdoing and instead be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit who works and guides you in your life and by The Word Of God.

*“Wherefore **be ye not unwise**, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;” (Ephesians 5:17-20 KJV)*

It is the Will Of God that we live Holy lives and pressing forth to do what is right and in a forgiving manner. See how Christ lived and what He did in circumstances in the Bible, and do the same in how we treat others.

*“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, **but unto holiness.**”
(1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 KJV)*

*“Forbearing one another, **and forgiving one another**, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” (Colossians 3:13 KJV)*

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV)

“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” (Luke 17:3-4 KJV)

ABIDE IN CHRIST AND HIS WORD

Abide in Christ and His words by reading the Bible for the renewing of your mind from the worlds view (the lie) to God's view (the truth) so that your inner being is so changed that God's good works flow outward into your life because you believe right. God then places desires in you to accomplish good works he has prepared for you to do FROM Salvation and renewal (not good works for Salvation).

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:5-8 KJV)

*“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH.** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I*

also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” (John 17:15-19 KJV)

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall MAKE YOU free.” (John 8:31-32 KJV)

*“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”
(Ephesians 6:13-17 KJV)*

LOVE GOD. TREAT OTHERS IN LOVE.

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40 KJV)

*“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. “
(Luke 6:31 KJV)*

*“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. “
(Luke 6:35 KJV)*

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be

prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 KJV) Note: Charity means love.

PRAY TO GOD. TALK WITH HIM. HE IS LISTENING!

Above these main points of the Will Of God for our lives we should pray and talk to God in and for every circumstance in life. Remember the Holy Spirit of God resides very close to you! He is indwelling you! He is right here with you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year! When you are awake and when you are sleeping. The love of God is with you always!

*“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 8:38-39 KJV)*

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: “ (1John 5:14 KJV)

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; “
(Ephesians 6:18 KJV)*

“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.” (Jeremiah 29:12 KJV)

Chapter 7

What Must I Do To Be Saved

*“...**whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:15-17 KJV)*

Believing that the Bible is the word of God, the very next question you need an answer to is what is God really like? Starting with knowing about God and His perfect ways gives you a solid foundation upon which to build better understanding when reading the Word of God. Let us quickly look at some of God’s characteristics from the Bible.

- **God is eternal.** He is not a created being. He has always existed. God never changes. He is the same today as He has always been. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8 , James 1:17, Deuteronomy 33:27, Psalms 90:2)
- **God cannot do anything against His own perfect character.** God keeps His promises to us. (Psalms 12:6-7, Mark 13:31)
- **God is perfect in every way:**
 - + Perfect in love. (1 John 4:8, 1 John 4:16, 1 John 4 :7)
 - + Perfectly Holy and perfect in justice.(Revelation 4:8, 1 Peter 1:15-16)
 - + Perfect in mercy. (Hebrews 13:5, Romans 3:23-24, Psalms 111:9)

NOTE: The list continues because He is truly perfect in every way. I have a more complete article on what the Bible has to say about God’s characteristics and His ways that you can read here . For the purpose of this article we will focus on the above attributes of God.

GOD IS LOVE. THEN, ALL IS GOOD RIGHT?

Perfect love is the trait of God that we want to hear about the most right? If God loves us than what have we to fear? In fact, many pulpits focus on this aspect of God yet deny the other attributes of God. We must also remember that God is also perfectly JUST

and Holy. And that is the problem that we humans need to address and face head on. If we compare our goodness to others who have done greater sins than we have, that is not a fair assessment of our true sinfulness. The Bible tells us that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23 KJV) and that “... we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;” (Isaiah 53:6 KJV). The very best thing we do in goodness is as filthy rags to God. You see, we all have a SIN NATURE in us. And God is so Holy that even just ONE sin is enough to cause Him to punish us with His perfect justice.

To make matters worse, the punishment for even ONE SIN is eternal death in a place of torment that was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). God is THAT HOLY! And when we compare ourselves to God, believe me when I say that we fail miserably. God gave us the Ten Commandments as His Absolute Truth to show us just how sinful we really are. No normally born human has kept the Ten Commandments perfectly.

Some say, I have not committed murder or adultery! However, Jesus said that if you have hate toward another in your heart you have committed murder. If you lust after the opposite sex you have committed adultery in your heart. And have you really loved God with ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND? Honestly, none of us have. You see our heart, our inner being is where the problem is. We all were born with a SIN NATURE and a ‘bent’ toward sinning since the fall of Adam and Eve.

So we have all sinned. What does that make us? It makes us sinners! And what does the Bible say happens to sinners? They are headed for God’s judgement and condemnation in hell. “*For the wages of sin is death;...*” (Romans 6:23 KJV)

A look at this verse in the Greek in which it was penned defines this death as ‘with the implied idea of future misery in hell’. This is an eternal death. That is not good news right?! So, what about God’s love you keep hearing about? Isn’t God perfect in love and mercy? YES He is! But not in a wishy washy sense. What I mean is that God is not going to just tell you in the court room of God, “ok. You did more good deeds than bad, so I will allow you eternal life in heaven”. NEVER. God CANNOT do anything against His perfect Holiness! To be given entrance to Heaven a person must be perfect and without any sin debt.

HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS! THE WONDERFUL NEWS!

God is also perfect in love and mercy and so He must also abide by these character traits perfectly. You see God loves you and me more than any being in the universe. He does not want anyone to end up in Hell. No! He loves the sinner but hates the sin. He wants all to be in heaven with Him forever and ever.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 KJV)

But this SIN is in the way because He must judge it. The penalty MUST be paid. So what is God to do in this predicament?

This is what Salvation is all about. The Bible tells us that God is a Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7). The Bible is clear that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). God in His perfect love and mercy decides to commit to the single greatest act of love in the universe for all of time. God decides to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself so that our penalty for sins can be paid in full. To do this, He would have to become a man but also still be God. This God-man is Jesus Christ.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and was not born into the sin nature as we were. He is God after all. He could be tempted to sin but never sinned in His entire life in deed, nor in the mind. Why? Because He is God become flesh. God had to become flesh and live as one of us so His blood could be shed for us. It was the only way that we could be forgiven our sins because they had to be paid for.

When Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood God took upon Himself all the sins of the whole world (past/present/future) and paid for them so that we could be freed from our sin debt against the Holy God Almighty. So you see, yes God is love. Amazing love! But His love that saves us was not in a wishy washy way. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for our sins and in doing so kept all His perfect traits and characteristics intact. He loves us perfectly. He judged our sins in His perfect justice and Holiness. He was perfectly merciful toward us in paying the penalty for our sins. THAT is the true love of God from the Bible. THAT is the love of God that you hear so much about. It far surpasses any love we have for each other here on Earth.

THE FREE GIFT OF THE GRACE OF GOD

“For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)

The Bible is clear that this act of love towards us is a FREE GIFT to be received. That is, it is not us working our way to heaven by performing good deeds and good works, being a good person nor by religious rituals. It is a Grace GIFT from God. An UNMERITED favor from God to humankind. Now God did not create us as robots. Instead He gave us a free will so that we could have a real relationship with Him. And so God offers the free gift of Salvation to all who believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, who atoned for our sins on the cross, died and rose again on the third day. Jesus on the cross cried out, “It is finished” and if we look at the Greek that the New Testament was written, it actually means “PAID IN FULL!” This is why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is called the good news!

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Only one thing which is not of your own self righteous efforts in any way; **BELIEVE the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who paid your penalty for the sins you have committed. When a person believes this they are from that very moment saved eternally, even without saying a prayer (it is good to give Him thanks in belief, do not get me wrong!), The Holy Spirit of God indwells the person and they are SEALED and saved for all eternity!

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye BELIEVED, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of PROMISE, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-16 KJV)

The Scripture below shows just how much God has saved such a person for all eternity. To be with God in Heaven we must be without sin debt. In belief, the person actually becomes the very righteousness of God, in Christ. An amazing truth to be so thankful for, yet many believers have not grasped how powerful our Salvation is!

“For he hath made HIM [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be MADE the righteousness of God IN HIM.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV, [] brackets for clarification)

Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and has imputed the righteousness of God to us, in God’s eyes He sees us through the filter of Christ! To Him we are Holy, righteous

and redeemed for all eternity. To God, all your sins (past/present/future) have all been fully paid for and so there is now no condemnation for them that believe on Christ alone in faith and belief.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1 KJV)

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
(John 3:16-18 KJV)*

IS JUST BELIEVING ENOUGH TO SAVE US? WHAT ABOUT REPENTANCE?

The New Testament was first penned in the Greek. The Greek word for the English word ‘repent’ is ‘metanoia’ and is defined as “... a change of mind, change in the inner man”. (see <http://biblehub.com/greek/3341.htm>) It is not defined as ‘turn from sin’ as many pulpits teaching works based Salvation are telling their church members. That is the modern day dictionary definition but not the Biblical definition of ‘repentance’. In fact, we see in the Word of God that God Himself repents more than any, yet God has no sin to repent of! To repent is to ‘change your mind’.

You can see clearly now that the Biblical meaning of ‘repent’ is nothing like the dictionary definition (change one’s life for the better; be penitent.) True repentance is not a work that WE DO to gain God’s acceptance and favor after Salvation. God reached out to us first and provided a way for us sinners to be forgiven completely, but it is NOT from our own efforts. God gives Salvation to us as a free gift to be received. The Bible tells us that BEFORE God created the Earth He established the one and only way for us to be forgiven our sins and that way is by faith in the act of atonement provided by Jesus The Christ on the cross.

Repentance is changing our mind and thinking about how to be saved. We are NOT saved by our works, which is what the every religion in the world teaches. Repentance and belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (which is Salvation by faith alone In the atonement for our sins through Christ crucified) is two sides of the same coin. That is if you repent about how to deal with your sins (change your mind about how to get forgiveness for your sins)

and believe that this is accomplished only through faith and belief in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and the atonement for our sins on the cross, you HAVE ALREADY repented.

Repenting is the change in your mind from the world's way of dealing with sin and changing to God's way of dealing with sin which is believing on Christ for Salvation apart from works of any kind (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Stopping the practice of a particular sin is a result of repenting and changing your mind. That is, it is not the repenting itself.

THE MAIN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE ON HOW TO BE SAVED PROVE THIS!

The book of John is all about how to be saved. Do you know that the word 'repent' nor 'repentance' does not even appear once! But the word 'believe' on Christ is seen all over the book many times!

The book of Galatians. This is the book fighting against the false Gospel based on works for Salvation right? Again, the word 'repent' is not found once in this book contending for the true Gospel! However the word 'faith' in Jesus Christ is found all through the book!

The book of Romans. Paul tells us again and again that Salvation is NOT OF WORKS IN ANY MANNER! And where the word 'repent' is found, it is not the same Greek word. It does not mean 'turning from your sin'.

The Christian religions need to stop using the dictionary definition of the word 'repent'!!! They are teaching a FALSE GOSPEL WHICH WILL NOT SAVE ANYONE.

BELIEVE THE GOSPEL AND BE SAVED

Do you believe Jesus is the Christ (Christ is not Jesus' last name, it means 'the anointed one'), the only begotten Son of God who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, born without sin, lived a sinless life, atoned for and paid in full the sins of the whole world (past/present/future) on the cross, died and rose again on the third day? If so, the Holy Spirit now resides within you and you are SEALED and saved for all eternity. You are Heaven bound and your sins will not cause loss of your Salvation. They are fully PAID by Christ on the cross 2000 years ago.

About The Author

Don Gerrity is not a preacher. He is not a leader of a church organization. He uses his talents in writing to help share the Gospel to the lost and to help encourage other believers. Don does not lead in an organization, nor an organizational church, though he does frequent many of the top Facebook Christian groups.



Don is owner of the **SeekKnockFind.org website**. A growing FREE resource with Christian articles, YouTube video playlists and links to other Christian resources. The goal of the SeekKnockFind.org website is to help new believers expand their knowledge of the truth in Salvation through Jesus Christ and to show non-believers why Christianity and the Holy Bible can be believed with full assurance that the Bible is the truth.

With a **Facebook group** that is hundreds of members strong and growing daily in membership, the invitation is open to you to visit and read posts and comments, and if you wish, to join in our conversations, as we all learn and expand our knowledge in the Word Of God and the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. You can find a link on the SeekKnockFind.org website to our Facebook group.



SeekKnockFind.org

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