



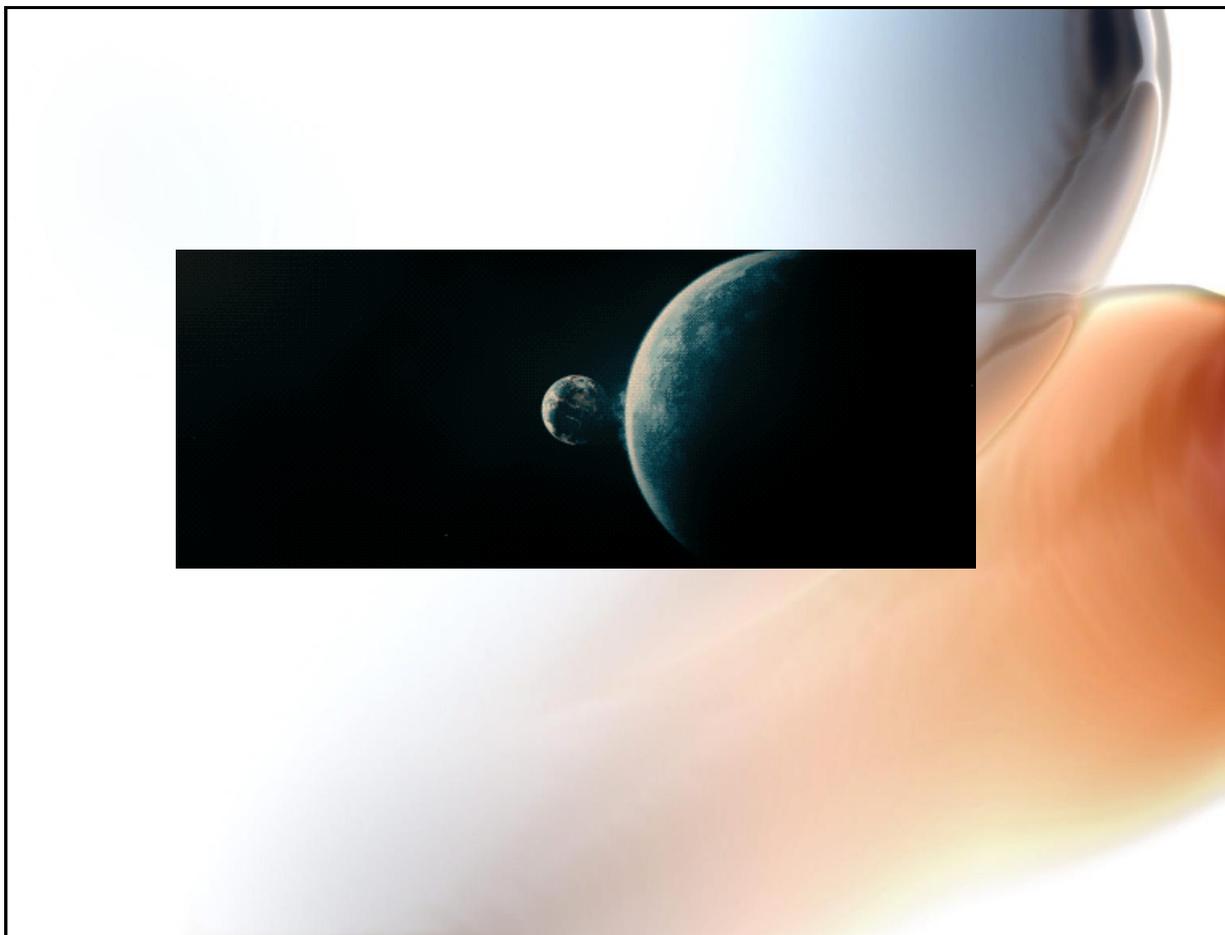
Faith in Action

A Living Shining Faith



The Bait

- ^{NAS} **James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- ^{NAS} **James 1:26** If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.
- ^{NAS} **James 2:9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all... ¹³ For judgment will be merciless ...



Colliding Principles

- ^{NAS} **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

The “Contradiction”

- ^{NAS} **James 2:24** You see that **a man is justified by works,** **and not by faith alone.**
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 2:16** nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 3:20** because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight... ²⁸ For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**



Clarification *not* Contradiction

Talk is Cheap

- ^{NAS} **James 2:14** What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Degrees of Faith

1. Unsaving Faith (2:19-20)
 - a. Purely intellectual belief
 - b. Belief with an emotional response
2. Saving Faith (2:21-25)

Unsaving Faith

- ^{NAS} **James 2:19** You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?
 - Lit., “The God is one”
- ^{NAS} **Deuteronomy 6:4** “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
 - LXX, Lit., “The God [of us, Lord] is one”
- Purely intellectual belief, 19a
- Belief with an emotional response, 19b
 - Neither can nor will save you, 20

Saving Faith

- ^{NAS} **James 2:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?
 - V23 – Genesis 15:6
 - V21 – Genesis 22
 - Abraham was saved by faith (Gen 15) which later bore the fruit of good works and obedience (Gen 22).

Abraham; Doer not Merely Hearer

- ^{NAS} **James 1:21** ... receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves...²⁵ ...not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer...
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 22:16** and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The Point in a Nutshell

- ^{NAS} **James 2:18** But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works"... ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone...²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- ^{NAS} **John 3:21** "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his works may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

What does this look like?

- ^{NAS} **Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

How do we do this?

- ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Conclusion

Examine Yourself Regularly

- ^{NAS} **James 2:24** You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone...²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 15:1** Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 13:5** Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

Live by Faith

- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight—
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A Living Shining Faith

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

