

Foundations 5b Faith Works

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

Hebrews 6:1-3

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ means that we “look to”, “rely upon” and “follow” Him. As James writes in his epistle, if we believe, then we act accordingly. When James speaks of the “works” of faith, he is referring to

corresponding actions that are commensurate with our faith.

James 2:14-26 “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have (corresponding actions) 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 (expression in corresponding deeds) works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.

You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

The Lord had promised Abraham that He would make a great nation out of his descendants (Genesis 12:1-2). Testing Abraham, God commanded him to offer his only son, Isaac, on the altar. Natural reasoning would conclude that if Abraham killed his only son, it would be impossible for a nation to come from Abraham's descendants. However, Abraham BELIEVED God's promise and obeyed, in faith, offering up his son on the altar. Abraham believed "that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead" (Heb. 11:19) Because Abraham believed God, he acted. His faith could be seen by his works. For this reason the epistle of James states:

"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

James 2:17-18

While we are justified by faith, the Word of God declares that we will be judged by our deeds. Why? Because our faith is proven by our deeds. If we say we have faith, but we do not have corresponding actions, then that "faith" is dead and cannot save us.

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work (deeds)." **Rev. 22:12**

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

2 Cor. 5:10

True faith, or lack of faith affects our actions or lack of actions. For example, now that we are in Christ, we can freely come to God anytime, day or night, by boldly approaching His throne of grace in prayer. The Bible says that Jesus is a compassionate High Priest who ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). As such, we are exhorted to "therefore come boldly to the

throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4:16)

If we believe this word, then we will come to Him often and boldly. We will regularly receive mercy, grace and help from God. If we do not believe this, we will not come to Him. If we do not come to Him and ask, we will miss out on a whole lot of mercy, grace and help that we could have had. It is that simple. Our beliefs dictate our actions.

Seek the Lord and His Kingdom First

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”.

Matthew 6:31-33

“The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing”.

Psalms 34:10

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly”.

Psalms 84:11

“He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper”. **2 Chronicles 26:5**

If we believe the above promises, we will not only come to His throne of grace for mercy and help, but we will seek Him first. We will seek to walk uprightly. Consequently, we will experience God’s peace, favor and provision.

If we do not believe God, we will not come to His throne of grace.
Neither will we seek Him first.

God can be trusted. He loves us! He is faithful to keep His Word.
(2 Thes. 5:24)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” **Mark 13:31**

“And the Lord said unto me, ‘You have well seen: for I am watching over My word to do it.’” **Jeremiah 1:12 (YLT)**

Joshua testified of God’s faithfulness:

“Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.” **Joshua 23:14**

Our Faith Must Continually Grow

Our faith is a gift from God (2 Peter 1:1, Acts 18:27). Faith must be fed in order to grow (2 Thes. 1:3). A primary way to feed our faith is by cultivating the habit of regularly reading and meditating on the Word of God.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”.
Romans 10:17

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law (Word of God) he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

Psalms 1:1-3

“Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” 1 Timothy 4:15

The more that we take time to read and meditate upon the Word of God, the more our faith grows. The stronger our faith is, the stronger we will be in the grace of God.