

Faith Works

Long Beach Alliance Church
August 10, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

~James 2:24 (ESV)

1) **Justification By Faith**

- A) The Apostle Paul gave special emphasis to ‘salvation through faith alone’ (Ephesians 2:8-9). He makes sure, in very specific terms, to support ‘justification by faith alone’ (declared righteous by God based on faith in Jesus Christ, see Romans 3:22-28).
- B) Faith in Christ is not meant to be some sort of mystical “leap” out into nothingness. Rather, Christians have faith in the “work” of Jesus Christ’s life and His sacrificial blood given on the cross (1 Peter 2:18-19).
- C) In other words, while there is no “work” you and I do to become saved, it is not right to say there was no work involved in salvation. It is Christ’s work which ransoms us (1 Timothy 2:6) from this world.

2) **Faith Without Works Is Dead**

- A) When we are saved, we are secure in the family of God forever. Our position is changed *definitively* (Romans 8:38-39). Our lives are set-apart from the world for transformation to *progressively* become conformed more and more like Jesus Christ (Romans 12:1-2, 8:29-30).
- B) James (brother of Jesus) notes belief alone cannot save, it must be accompanied by works; the two are inseparable (James 2:14-26). Faith must have an object. In biblical faith, the object is Jesus Christ. Not just some mysterious Savior, but in His work and sacrifice.

3) **Faith Works Because It ALWAYS Responds To Truth**

- A) For Christians, original faith is a response to the truth (Romans 10:14). Christ identity (Galatians 2:20) continues transforming (Hebrews 12:1-2) the life of a believer through active response to the truth (John 17:17). The Spirit of God (Romans 8:9-11) responds to the truth, bringing progressive transformation in our lives (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).