

Faith and Works

1. Faith is NECESSARY for salvation

¹⁶ A For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.... ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:16-18, cf. Rom 1:17, 5:1; Acts 16:31, Eph 2:8-9)

2. Faith involves putting our confidence in Christ as our Saviour and Lord

It's built on knowing the truth

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

(though it involves more than knowing the truth)

¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! (James 2:19)

It's never opposed to reason

³ [Jesus] presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs...(Acts 1:3; 17:30-31)

(though it may be opposed to our senses)

¹⁹ [Abraham] did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God...(Romans 4:19-20)

It ordinarily involves declaring our allegiance

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

(though it's possible to be filled with God's Spirit even in the womb)

"...he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb..."(Luke 1:15). "...when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44; cf. 18:15-17)

It involves coming to Christ personally

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...(John 1:12)

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:35, cf 7:37-38)

3. Faith and repentance belong together

Repentance involves sorrow for sin and turning from sin

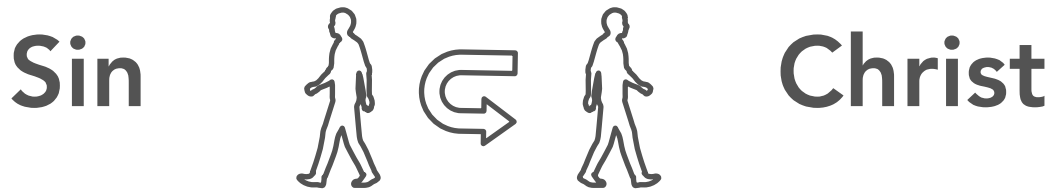
For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation...whereas worldly grief produces death. (2 Cor 7:10)

Turning to Christ in faith, and turning from sin in repentance, happen together

⁶ "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)



So Repentance and Faith often get used interchangeably

²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance towards God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)

⁴⁶ [Jesus] told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30)

4. "We are saved through faith alone...but the faith that saves is never alone"

Don't Paul and James contradict each other?

No, they are addressing different issues.

	Paul	James
	<p>⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ <u>not a result of works</u>, so that no one may boast.</p> <p>¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)</p>	<p>¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?</p> <p>¹⁷ <u>...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.</u>" (James 2:14-17)</p>
Speaking to	...those who need reminding of the radical nature of God's grace	...nominal Christians who think they have real faith but don't
Definition of faith	Real trust in Jesus	Intellectual agreement with the truth, but no personal trust
Message	"Your salvation is 100% because of God and 0% because of you."	"Your "faith" is not the real thing, real faith is always active."