

What does the Bible say about...

faith?

works?

faith and works together?

Faith is a belief or conviction so strong that it governs our actions or behavior. God decides whether or not our behavior is acceptable to Him.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

² For by it the men of old gained approval.
(Hebrews 11:1,2)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Hebrews chapter 11 tells of those who gained God's approval through their faith. In each case, the person (1) believed that He is, and (2) that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him, and (3) were motivated to action.

This type of faith will gain God's approval. However, there are other types of faith which will not gain God's approval.

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

⁴² Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;
⁴³ for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God. (John 12:42,43)

¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
(James 2:19)

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

Mere belief in God or Christ without accompanying action will not gain God's approval. In fact, the indication is to the contrary.

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

2. Misguided faith

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

(Romans 10:1-3)

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

2. Misguided faith

If we do not subject ourselves to the righteousness of God, we can not gain His approval.

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

2. Misguided faith

3. Saving faith

³⁶ “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; But he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

³⁶ “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; But he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

Notice how belief is coupled with obedience!

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

2. Misguided faith

3. Saving faith

A saving faith is an obedient faith. We gain God's approval when we do what He tells us to do.

Compare these verses:

³⁶ “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; But he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

¹⁶ “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

(Mark 16:16)

Compare these verses:

³⁶ “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; But he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

¹⁶ “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

(Mark 16:16)

Compare these verses:

³⁶ “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; But he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

¹⁶ “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

(Mark 16:16)

There are different kinds of faith

1. Belief only

2. Misguided faith

3. Saving faith

A saving faith is an obedient faith.

disobedience = disbelief

belief = obedience

There are different kinds of works

1. Works of God (John 6:27-29)

²⁷ “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

²⁸ Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do that we may work the works of God?”

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

(John 6:27-29)

27 “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

28 Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do that we may work the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the **work of God**, that you **believe** in Him whom He has sent.” (John 6:27-29)

Notice that faith is a work!

There are different kinds of works

1. Works of God (John 6:27-29)

2. Works of men (Ephesians 2:8,9)

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, so that no one may boast.

(Ephesians 2:8,9)

There are different kinds of works

1. Works of God (John 6:27-29)

2. Works of men (Ephesians 2:8,9)

Men will boast about their works, but can not take credit for God's work.

There are different kinds of works

1. Works of God (John 6:27-29)
2. Works of men (Ephesians 2:8,9)
3. Works of the Law (Romans 3:19,20)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;
²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

(Romans 3:19,20)

There are different kinds of works

1. Works of God (John 6:27-29)

2. Works of men (Ephesians 2:8,9)

3. Works of the Law (Romans 3:19,20)

A misunderstanding of the ways that “works” is used in the scriptures leads to confusion.

We are not saved by works... **Right?!**

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, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

We are not saved by works... **Right?!**

We are not saved by works of men.

We are not saved by works of the Law.

We are saved by works of God.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

There is nothing that we can do to merit or earn our salvation.

We don't have to! Jesus has already paid that price! He completed His work.

Not everyone is saved by God's grace.

Those who gain God's approval though their obedient faith are saved by grace.

Different concepts of faith and works

1. Faith only, no works

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Proponents of “faith only - no works” use this verse as a proof text for their doctrine, but there are several problems with that.

Problems “faith only” doctrine:

1. Faith is a work! (John 6:27-29)

Problems “faith only” doctrine:

1. Faith is a work! (John 6:27-29)
2. Faith is coupled with obedience. (John 3:36)

Problems “faith only” doctrine:

1. Faith is a work! (John 6:27-29)
2. Faith is coupled with obedience. (John 3:36)
3. **IF** John 3:16 proves “faith only” **THEN** the unconfessing rulers would be saved (John 12:42,43) and the demons would be saved.
(James 2:19)

By the way...

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

IF this verse proves that baptism is not necessary for salvation,
THEN it also proves that repentance or confession are not necessary for salvation.

²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

(James 2:24 NASB)

²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

(James 2:24 KJV)

The term “faith only” appears only once in the scriptures and is proceeded by the word “not”.

Problems “faith only” doctrine:

1. Faith is a work! (John 6:27-29)
2. Faith is coupled with obedience. (John 3:36)
3. **IF** John 3:16 proves “faith only” **THEN** the unconfessing rulers would be saved (John 12:42,43) and the demons would be saved. (James 2:19)
4. We are not saved by faith only! (James 2:24)

Different concepts of faith and works

1. Faith only, no works

2. Faith plus works

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone 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 filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

(James 2:14-26)

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

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.”

¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

(James 2:14-26)

²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the alter?

²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

(James 2:14-26)

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.

(James 2:14-26)

²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

(James 2:14-26)

Works are an important part of Faith!

Faith without works is dead (vs. 17, 26).

Faith without works is useless (vs. 20).

Faith works with works (vs. 22).

Faith is perfected as a result of works (vs. 22).

“Faith plus works” seems closer in harmony with the scriptures than “faith only”, but it is not the real answer.

“Faith plus works” does not identify faith as a work. (John 6:27-29)

Different concepts of faith and works

1. Faith only, no works

2. Faith plus works

3. Working Faith

¹ Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

² For by it the men of old gained approval.
(Hebrews 11:1,2)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

A Working Faith

1. Believe that God is.
2. Believe that God rewards those who seek Him.
3. Work to gain God's approval.

A Working Faith

So how do we have a working faith?

So how do we gain God's approval?

A Working Faith

By keeping His commandments!

³ By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

(I John 2:3-5)

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world --- our faith.

(I John 5:2-4)

1. *HEAR the Word* (Rom. 10:17)
2. *BELIEVE the Word* (Heb. 11:6)
3. *CONFESS Christ* (Rom. 10:9,10)
4. *REPENT of your sins* (Luke 13:3)
5. *BE BAPTIZED into Christ* (Mark 16:16)