

# James 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

## Analysis

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**Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.** James imagines an interlocutor: "You have faith, I have works. Show (deixon, δεῖξον) me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works." Faith is visible through actions; without works, it cannot be demonstrated.

Reformed orthodoxy holds that justification is by faith alone, but faith is proven genuine by works. James challenges any attempt to separate the two experientially.

## Historical Context

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Early Christian debates pitted Jewish legalists against antinomians. James addresses those claiming faith is purely internal. Paul likewise tells Titus to insist on good works so opponents have nothing evil to say (Titus 2:7-8).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What concrete works currently display your trust in Christ?
2. How can you cultivate habits that make faith tangible?
3. Who might be watching your works to evaluate your faith?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀλλ' ἐρεῖ τις Σὺ πίστιν ἔχω· κἀγὼ ἔργων ἔχω·  
**Yea** **may say** **a man** **Thou** **faith** **hast** **and I** **works** **hast**  
G235 G2046 G5100 G4771 G4102 G2192 G2504 G2041 G2192

δείξω μοι τὴν πίστιν σου χωρὶς τῶν ἔργων σου κἀγὼ  
**shew** **me** G3588 **faith** **thy** G5565 G3588 **works** **thy** **and I**  
G1166 G3427 G4102 G4675 G2041 G4675 G2504

δείξω σοι ἐκ τῶν ἔργων μου τὴν πίστιν μου  
**shew** **thee** **by** G3588 **works** **my** G3588 **faith** **my**  
G1166 G4671 G1537 G2041 G3450 G4102 G3450

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 1:5** (Faith): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

**James 3:13** (Parallel theme): Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

**Galatians 5:6** (Faith): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

**James 2:14** (Faith): What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

**Romans 14:23** (Faith): And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

**Hebrews 11:31** (Faith): By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

**Hebrews 11:33** (Faith): Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

**Romans 3:28** (Faith): Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

**Titus 2:7** (Parallel theme): In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

**Hebrews 11:6** (Faith): But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

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