

# 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

**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

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

**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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Ἄλλ	ἐρεῖ	τις	Σὺ	πίστιν	ἔχω·	κάγω	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	κάγω
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.