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FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

We read in Ephesians 2:8, ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”***

James 2:17 says, ***“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 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.’”***

We might think these two scriptures are a contradiction, but they aren't. We cannot receive salvation by doing anything on our own. We receive salvation by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We cannot earn salvation. We cannot receive it by how good or bad we are. It is a gift from God received by faith. Good works follow salvation.

Ephesians 2:9 continues the story. It says, ***“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”***

As a Christian, we do good works because we *have already received* salvation. To know that we have escaped a fiery hell for eternity is enough to make anyone want to do what is right and good. We do not do good works to “stay saved” because Jesus has given us “eternal” life. Salvation is a one-time experience that lasts forever but works follow salvation.

We are recreated to do that which is right. It is our responsibility “after” salvation to do the things that God would have us to do. As we read the scriptures, it becomes our lamp into the darkness guiding us by God as to what we should do.

Anyone that claims to have received salvation and never does anything for God is fooling themselves. Ephesians 2:10 states that we are his ***workmanship*** which means he is working in and through us to become more like him.

If you have never shared what God has done for you, repent. Now is the time to start doing what is a work for God. James 1:22 tells us, ***“...be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own self.”***

God guides us by his Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit speaks to us through God's word. It is not a suggestion to do good works, it is a command. Faith without works [action] is dead. Don't be empty handed when you stand before God and are rewarded for what you have done with your life.