



Faith Alone?

James 1:22-25

God's _____ saves us through faith, but does He save us through faith alone? Is faith alone _____? What does the _____ say about this? The Lord's _____ is right and true. It never _____. The Lord's wisdom is _____ beyond our own (Proverbs 3:5-7). Because we trust God, we turn to His Holy Word, and His Word _____ the way that is good and acceptable and perfect.

Today we're continuing to look at how man _____ to God. Last week we learned from God's Word that man is not _____ totally corrupt but is capable of responding to the will of God. The Scriptures teach that people grow up in a _____ environment and are weak, but God made us capable of believing.

Faith comes not through some miraculous means but through _____ the word of God (Romans 10:17). **Read John 20:30-31.** That faith is _____ for us to be saved is indisputable, but some say that we're saved by faith _____. Does God _____ more than faith for a person to respond to God's will? For the _____ let's go to the Scriptures.

Read James 1:22-25.

There's no _____: faith is necessary for forgiveness. **Read John 3:16-18; Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6.** There can be no doubt that unless we believe in God our Father and Jesus as His Son, we will _____ in our sins. **Read what the apostle Peter told Cornelius about Jesus Christ in Acts 10:43, and what the Bible says in Romans 5:1-2.** So, the Scripture clearly _____ faith as absolutely necessary for us to be saved from sin. But the necessity of faith doesn't _____ that other things are not also necessary. If I say I need oxygen to _____, that doesn't mean that I don't also need water, food, and shelter. No one would _____ they live by oxygen alone. In the same way, the Scriptures that teach faith is necessary don't rule out the _____ for other things that we need to have to have life in Christ.

This doctrine makes Christianity convenient for a lot of people, because they _____ on the passages about faith, but they do it often to the exclusion of other passages. People who hold to the faith alone doctrine will start saying you don't have to do _____ but believe,



but the Scriptures don't _____ to faith alone what God requires of us. It's true that we're saved by faith, but it's not the _____ truth. The Scriptures, in fact, tell us that we are saved by _____ things.

When discussing this doctrine with others who are adamant about being saved by faith alone, often they _____ off of their conviction when other matters come into the conversation. For instance, when being saved by grace through faith is brought up, according to Ephesians 2:8, they gladly _____ that this is true. If we're saved by _____ through faith, we're not saved by faith alone. Salvation also _____ the grace of God, doesn't it? Do you have to _____ God in order to be saved? There are several passages that teach the necessity of love to be _____ with God. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 16:22 that, "If anyone has no _____ for the Lord, let him be accursed." The word accursed here _____ someone is lost and condemned eternally. The Bible clearly _____ the necessity of love for the Lord. The Lord doesn't merely _____ to be loved but to be loved more than _____; yes, more than anything (Matthew 10:37). God requires our wholehearted love and will settle for nothing less (Mark 12:28-30). Faith without love won't _____ God.

When talking with people who believe in faith alone a question can be asked, "Do you believe it is necessary for a person to _____?" The Lord Jesus said in Luke 13:3, "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise _____." And He _____ that in verse 5.

Read how serious the Lord was about repentance in Matthew 5:29-30. Read what the apostle Paul preached to the Stoics and the Epicureans and the other Athenians on Mars Hill in Acts 17:30-31. Having studied what God said about repentance, the people who say they believe in faith alone have to _____ that we must repent to be _____ with God. If repentance is _____ necessary to be saved, then we aren't saved by faith alone.

We can ask if it is necessary to obey God to be saved. **Read what the Bible clearly says in Hebrews 5:8-9.** John the Baptist said in John 3:36 that, "He who believes in the Son has _____ life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the _____ of God abides on him." The King James Version translates this verse, "He that believeth . . . but he that believeth not . . ." But the words "believeth" and "believeth not" are _____ in the original language, the Greek language. The first "believeth" is that _____ word for believing, the word *pisteuo*, but the second word for "believeth not" comes from the word



apeitho; it _____ a person who will not be persuaded and so is disobedient. It's _____ translated as disobey or to be disobedient. The contrast here is not whether one believes or not but whether one believes _____ to be obedient. If he won't _____, he really doesn't believe. If he doesn't obey, he won't _____ eternal life; and the _____ of God abides on him. The Bible never treats obedience as if it were _____. To say that we're saved by faith alone and have no need to obey clearly contradicts the _____ of Scripture. When the need for _____ is brought up to the person who believes in faith alone, he begins to talk about a _____ salvation. He argues that we are saved by _____ and not by _____ and may quote Ephesians 2:8-10. When discussing the need for denying oneself and taking up the cross, the people who hold to "faith only" must _____ the Lord requires that as well. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 9:23-24.** Denying self and taking up a cross is not _____.

We're not suggesting here that a person can _____ his way to heaven by works. You _____ earn salvation. We've already seen that from Ephesians 2. Salvation is the _____ of God's grace or favor. But let's not _____ that this gift is unconditional. God has every right to place _____ on His gift of grace. God distinguishes those who will receive His grace from those who will not receive it by _____ conditions.

Suppose I were to bury a priceless _____ in my backyard and I promise to give it to you. You're interested in _____ this great gift, aren't you? So you ask, "Well, what do I _____ to do to get it." I have the _____ to make conditions to my gift. So, I tell you that you must _____ to the exact location in my backyard and _____ it up. Do you honestly believe that the small _____ that you put into digging up the treasure earned that treasure for you or it made it any less a gift?

Salvation is the same way. What God asks of us to _____ His great mercy and grace are not meritorious works to earn salvation. Faith is certainly a _____ for receiving that gift. What we need to understand is that loving God, repenting of sin, and obeying the Lord are _____ of faith that meet God's conditions. They don't _____ God to save us; they don't save us without the grace of God. They are merely conditions that God has _____ for us to receive His marvelous gift.



Hugo McCord, a Bible scholar and one of my teachers, described faith as a “_____” word. He said believing _____ far more than just agreeing that something is true. The word “faith” describes _____ that man does in response to God’s grace. Faith is _____ than a mental act. **Read an example in Galatians 3:26-27.** The concept of faith _____ being baptized and clothing ourselves with Christ. The Bible never contemplates the idea of a believing _____ who is not baptized.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:21 that, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who _____ the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” Having a relationship with the Lord takes _____ than mere faith; the person who talks faith but fails to _____ out his faith with love is fooling himself. **Read what the Bible says in 1 John 2:4-6.** The doctrine of salvation by faith alone, although it’s _____, does not come from God but from men. God wants more than faith; He wants _____ your heart, your life, and your obedience.

Read what the Bible says in John 12:42-43. Secret faith fails to _____ Christ and it fails to show love for God. Does this kind of faith _____ God? We must honestly _____ no. We’ve all met people who _____ they believe but they don’t _____ their faith. If they believe their faith alone will save them, they’re actually _____ themselves. **Read James 2:18-20.**

Put your faith into _____ by confessing Jesus as the Christ, _____ away from every single sin, and by being _____ for the forgiveness of your sins just as the Bible teaches in Act 2:38. And when you’re baptized, the Lord will _____ your sins as Acts 22:16 teaches. Take up your cross _____ and follow the Lord. Love the _____ and _____ others. Believing in the Lord Jesus also means being involved at _____. And when you place your faith in Christ and you are baptized, the Lord will _____ you to His church and He expects you to get involved as one of His people in the church. The Father created you in Christ for _____ works as one of His people. Don’t just _____ your faith, _____ it. Serve the Lord with _____ your heart and soul and mind and strength.