



How can we harmonize the two sayings of Paul and James?

A. Paul says, Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

- o "apart" from works of the law

- i) Work(s) of the law are deeds or works, performances that a person does to get justification or right standing with God which is impossible!

Paul is saying we are saved without these deeds, but simply through faith. These are what the Bible calls dead works. They cannot produce righteousness.

- ii) Paul is speaking against works from being used as a root to justification. The works we do even though they are taken as a root do not justify us because we are justified by faith. Period!

- iii) These are the works that Paul is referring to.

B. James says, James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

- o James seems to indicate that we are saved by faith plus Works, but that is not true.

Harmonizing Romans 3:28 and James 2:14

- a) Works of faith—these are not the means to faith, but a result of faith. They are not for justification rather are corresponding actions to what we profess and/or believe in our hearts. These are a fruit of the justification that happens or has already happened by faith. Another way I like to call **"works of faith"** is **"works from faith."**

b) True faith must have corresponding actions, but it is not the actions that justify. If someone simply says they believe and do not have the right actions to back it up, their faith is dead.

i) Note: This "save" is not speaking of salvation or salvation alone.

c) Work of faith is not the work of the law. It is not done to earn right standing with God or to be justified but these are corresponding actions to our faith. They are the fruit of our faith, not the root of our faith.