

## Purified and Justified by Faith

Job 25:4 How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

- A) There is a common belief in church and in the world that a person is justified by good works (good deeds or performance). Many religions believe the same.
- B) Another *belief* is that one is justified by faith plus works – We see this in Acts 15 where this was the position of some people but was rejected by the leaders of the believers at Jerusalem led by Peter and James.

Many people will split hell wide open believing that they need to keep the law to be saved.

Main Text: Acts 15:9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

- 1) Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Justified = Just as if they never sinned.

To be made righteous

- 2) Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

- 3) Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- 4) Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
- 5) Romans 4:1-3 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
- 6) Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 7) 1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
- 8) Galatians 2:16-17 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 16 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.
- 9) Galatians 3:5-8 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
  - A) 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Of faith, not of works = Children of Abraham

B) 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

a) Justify the heathen through faith

b) Preached the gospel unto Abraham.

i) What is the Gospel? Let us define the gospel according to the scriptures, using the scriptures.

o Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

o Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

o 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

o Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

10) Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

11) Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

12) Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

There is no contradiction between what is said here and what is said Romans 3:28 along with all the other passages listed above. Faith alone saves, but saving faith is never alone (John Calvin).

Point being made is about how important our actions are.

Note:

There are two types of Righteousness according to Romans 10:3) and there are two types of works – Works of the law (Romans 3:28) and works of Faith (1 Thessalonians 1:3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11).

What James is saying is that we can discern true biblical faith by looking at the actions (works).

What are the works of the law?

Works of the Law are actions which are done by an individual trying to earn something from God– justification, Salvation, righteousness, forgiveness, love, healing, deliverance, prosperity, miracles.

But note that no one can and has ever earned anything from God. To get and receive what God has for us is through putting faith in what Jesus did for us. If this is done with sincere faith or faith unfeigned, our hearts change (2 Corinthians 5:17) which leads to actions or works after that true faith – works of faith.

What are the works of faith?

Works of faith are actions resulting or following a changed heart. These actions did not cause the heart to change.

When we have a relationship with God, the good acts and deeds are the works of faith or acts of faith. They did not save us but are simply a result of that relationship, but do not produce or cause that relationship with the Lord.

