

Evidences of this are found even within the period covered by the writing of the New Testament. Thus ¹Paul assures us that no one can be saved by works. It is only faith by which one can be saved, and it was thus that Abraham was saved. Yet ²James declares that Abraham was saved by works, and that faith without works is dead. At first sight there is a complete contradiction between these two writers of the New Testament. However, as one studies the matter a little more deeply he soon finds that the difference is simply that Paul and James are using the word "faith" in different senses. To ³Paul the word "faith" means a ^{complete confidence in God} thoroughgoing belief that He will perform what He has ^{promised}. which affects one's whole being. ⁴James uses the word "faith" in the sense of merely affirming that a doctrine is true. When this difference is understood there is no contradiction between what the two say. In fact their teachings fit together and each adds to the understanding of this important matter. (⁵Genuine faith is neither lacking in obedience to God or confidence in God)

Paul points out that no matter what one may do in order to earn salvation it will always be ineffective since salvation is all of grace. never by itself be effective. Salvation is the result of a heart attitude toward God (from the human standpoint). One can perform all sorts of ceremonies and can even give his body to be burned, but if it is a method of trying to earn something that can be received only as a free gift, it avails nothing. Faith without works is dead.

On the other hand, James is showing the error of those who alleged faith is only in the head, not in the heart. He is pointing out that merely expressing belief in certain doctrines will never win salvation. Any

¹ Romans 4:1-5

² James 2:17-23

³ Romans 4:19-21

⁴ James 2:14-17

⁵ Romans 16:26; 1 Thess. 1:3; James 1:6-8; 5:15