

## C&C: The Household of Faith

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

### **Galatians 6:7-10**

7 Be not deceived; **God is not mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.  
8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.  
9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.  
**10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

Christians are to live a life of faith! When faith is in operation it is accompanied by works. Even as we reap what we sow. To sow is to put forth action and to reap is to see the result of the sowing you have put forth action in performing the labor. If you sow to your flesh you will reap corruption as your reward. If you sow to the Spirit you will of the Spirit reap life everlasting as your reward.

When we work let us not grow weary in well doing for we will reap if we faint not. We also as Christians as we have the opportunity, should be doing good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

### **Hebrews 11:1, 6**

**1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**  
6 But without faith **it is impossible** to please him: for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Through your faith in God and your diligently seeking him you will be rewarded. However, your faith produced actions of diligence seeking God before the reward will come. Your faith was what you hoped and believed for according to the Bible and having learned and having applied diligence you have the evidence of things not seen even as you know that when you die as a Child of God you will receive eternal life as you are now with the Lord Jesus. However, you had to sow to the Spirit to reap everlasting life by the Spirit.

The Apostle James teaches us how to exercise our faith as well as Hebrews chapter 11.

### **James 2:20-26**

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead**?  
21 Was not Abraham our father **justified by works**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

The answer is yes he was. But these works that he was justified by were the works of faith. He believed God concerning the promise that God had given to him and to his son Isaac which is found in Genesis 17:19 and reads, “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.”

22 Seest thou how **faith wrought with his works**, and by works was faith made perfect?

The word wrought means to be a fellow-worker, i.e. co-operate.

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

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

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot **justified by works**, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The Apostle James tells us with examples of how you are justified by the works of faith and not just faith only. He explains to us why this is by telling us that just like the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

### **Hebrews 11:17-19**

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up **his only begotten son**,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; **from whence also he received him in a figure.**

Meaning just as Christ was the only begotten son of God, Isaac was the only begotten son of Abraham. And just as Christ was raised from the dead even so did Abraham receive his son as if from the grave. In both cases the divine intervention from God took place.

### **James 2:14-18**

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can faith save him?**

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

There were not any action of works accompanying it. What profit is there in seeing someone naked and without food and saying to them “depart in peace, be warmed and filled”? However, if you provide for them those things which is needed, your faith is made complete. You put works with your faith. Your faith said, “depart in peace, be warmed and filled” and you supplied those needs and now when this person departs they will be able to go in peace being warmed from the clothing you have given to them and filled with the food that you have provided for them.

This is faith with works. Not works of the Mosaic law. This is understanding that you obtain righteousness by faith, but faith which must be accompanied with her works or it is dead being alone.

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, **is dead, being alone.**

18 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.

This is because faith is an action word. If you believe then you will put forth actions of obedience to what you believe. This putting forth of action with your faith is the works of faith that makes faith complete. Otherwise your faith is made void.

**Romans 3:21-28** {Brackets inserted by me}

21 But now **the righteousness of God without the law** {the Mosaic law} is manifested {this is speaking of the law of righteousness}, being witnessed by the law {the Mosaic law} and the prophets;

22 Even the **righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ** unto all and upon all them that believe {by their faith}: for there is no difference:

23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being **justified freely by his grace** {which we obtain by the law of faith} through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation {or appeasement} **through faith in his blood**, to declare **his righteousness** for the remission of sins that are past, through **the forbearance** of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time **his righteousness**: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. {which is by the law of Faith}

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: **but by the law of faith.**

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

But remember faith without works is dead being alone. The works of faith are not the works of the Mosaic Law. Faith is an action word that requires an action in accordance to what you believe.

**Romans 1:5** {The Apostle Paul speaking of Jesus Christ...}

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for **obedience to the faith** among all nations, for his name:

To be obedient to the faith requires actions... To be obedient you must put forth works with your faith.

**Romans 6:16** {Listen carefully}

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of **obedience unto righteousness?**

Your actions of obedience to the faith is what leads you to the free gift of righteousness of which God then imputes to your charge. It is a free gift of God but one must be obedient to the faith to obtain to it.

We must remember that we are speaking of how we obtain to the law of righteousness and that of life. This righteousness that we are receiving from God comes from the law of faith which then allows us access into God's grace wherein we stand. It is also by the law of faith that we receive the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus that sets us free from the law of sin and death.

Many times when we here the word law we only think about the Mosaic law and we do not think about the other laws that are mentioned to us in the Word of God. Such as the ones I just mentioned.

**Romans 4:1-3** {Brackets inserted by me}

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh {topic here identified}, 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.**

This is important to understand. Remember the Apostle James said, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works." So was Abraham justified by works or not justified by works? The answer depends upon what works you are speaking of?

The Apostle Paul and the Apostle James are speaking of different works. The Apostle Paul asked a question in verse 1 and answered it in verse 3. The answer was by faith. Abraham believed God. The Apostle James gives us further explanation of how Abraham was justified by explaining to us how faith was made complete by works.

**James 2:20**

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

The topic is faith!!

**James 2:21-23**

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works {works with his faith}, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought {co-operating} with his works, and by works {of faith} was faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

This is exactly what the Apostle Paul said above. He asked the question in verse 1 "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found" and in verse 2 said, "if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God" This is because the topic of what the Apostle Paul was speaking of in verse 1 is the works of the flesh and the lead up to this verse of scripture was speaking of the works of the Mosaic Law. The answer then coming from verse 3 which let us know that it was the works of faith that fulfilled the scripture "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

Even though the Mosaic Law had not yet come during Abraham's lifetime, the Apostle Paul is speaking to people who understand the Mosaic Law and is telling them that Abraham was not justified by works of the flesh nor does justification come by the works of the Mosaic Law, but rather Abraham, as well as we, are justified by the works of faith. As the Apostle James said, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" The answer is yes. Abraham's faith was made complete of what he believed concerning his son, the child of promise, by his obedient actions in accordance of what God commanded of him. Thus Abraham's faith, through what he believed in God, was put into action when he offered up his son. Faith with her works and faith made complete.

**Romans 4:4-6** {The Apostle Paul speaking again and he is speaking of the works of the flesh as well as the works of the Mosaic Law}  
4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Meaning it's not a gift of grace but it is owed to you because you worked for it.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, **his faith is counted for righteousness.**

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, **unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,**

Again it is by believing on him that justifies the ungodly. This person's faith is counted for righteousness. But this does not make void the works that accompany faith. The Apostle Paul did not expound on faith here. Just like the Apostle James when speaking of how Abraham was justified by faith did not expound upon the works of the flesh or of the Mosaic Law. We must remember that the works that accompany faith are not the works of the flesh nor of the Mosaic Law.

**Romans 4:16** {Brackets inserted by me}

16 Therefore **it is of faith, that it might be by grace;** to the end **the promise might be sure to all the seed;** not to that only which is of the law {of Moses}, but to that also **which is of the faith of Abraham;** who is the father of us all,