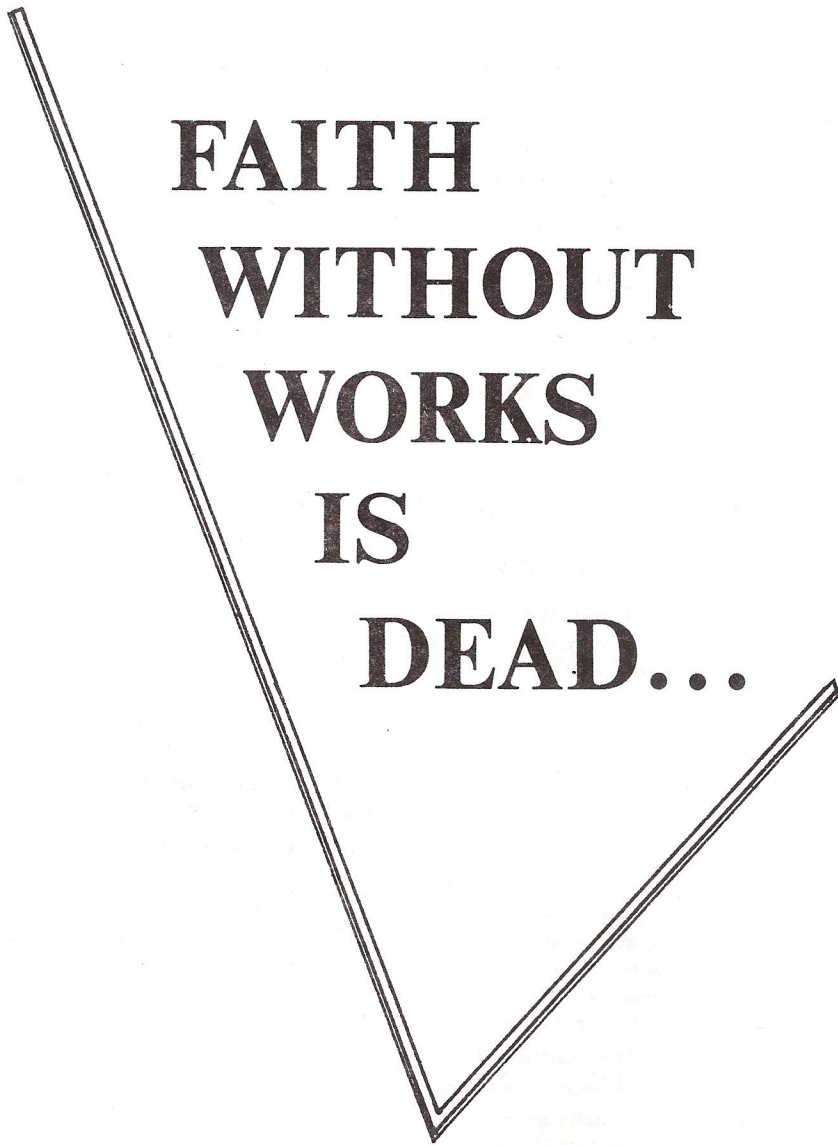


**FAITH
WITHOUT
WORKS
IS
DEAD...**



Yes, faith without works is dead, but you're still saved by a *saving faith alone*. Try to understand this: "*Faith alone saves, but a saving faith is never alone.*" In other words, the kind of faith that can save you will eventually *result* in works. For example, sheep don't go "baa, baa" to *become* sheep, they go "baa, baa" because they *already are!* John put it this way;

... ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. (I John 2:29)

Notice that it says "born of him" and not "born of good works."

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

You can't earn "*the gift of God.*" Imagine that it is Christmas morning and you have offered a gift to your son. He tries to give you money for the gift. How would you feel? You might feel hurt and even insulted. If he insisted on trying to pay you something for it, you probably wouldn't give it to him. *Have you been doing this to God?* Is your pride getting in the way of your receiving the gift of eternal life on *His terms?* Do you lack the saving faith that pleases God (cf. Hebrews 11:6) and makes your heart clean before Him?

... purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. (Acts 15:9-11)

BUT ALL MY GOOD WORKS MUST MEAN THAT I'M A CHRISTIAN!!

Please be *very* careful here. Take a close look at your good works. Would you call preaching a false gospel that can damn someone to the lake of fire, a *good* work? If I took you the hospital when you were sick and gave you money when you were poor, but then told you a gospel that was going to cost you eternal life, could I still be called a true Christian? Paul, a *true* Apostle, gave a *very serious warning*:

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8)

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL THAT PAUL PREACHED, AND IS IT THE SAME AS THE L.D.S. GOSPEL??

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, ... By which also ye are saved, ... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Ce'-phas, ... (I Corinthians 15:1-5)

Please notice: Christ didn't sweat for our sins, and there are *no laws* in this Gospel (Good News). The L.D.S. 3rd Article of Faith says however:

We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

Clearly, this is a false gospel. Woe unto those who preach it. Paul *really* meant the warning of Galatians 1:8 (also see vs. 9). Those who put laws into the *Good News* have just made it *bad news*. Galatians 2:16 tells us:

... a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, ...

BUT FAITH ALONE CAN'T BE ENOUGH!! DOESN'T THE BIBLE SAY THE DEMONS BELIEVE, IN JAMES 2:19?

The verse reads: "*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*" (Note: you do *well* if you believe there is *one* God.) Actually, there are two kinds of belief or faith. One **can** save you, and the other one **cannot**. The kind the demons have is merely intellectual. They know *about* God and the fate they will one day suffer (Matthew 8:28,29). No demon can trust in Christ with his black heart for salvation, *but men can!!*

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9,10)

Men *can* trust in Christ with their hearts and God will credit righteousness to their account. Demons can't. Even in the Old Testament days trusting in God was the key. **Then** God saw them as righteous.

And he (that is, Abraham) **believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.** (Genesis 15:6)

... but the just shall live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:4)

They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. (Psalm 125:1)

DO YOU MEAN THAT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS BELIEVE, AND THEN I CAN MURDER SOMEONE AND STILL BE SAVED?

In the first place, those who truly trust in Christ at some point in their lives are not too likely to go out and kill somebody. But suppose they did. *Can God forgive murder?* David committed premeditated murder and adultery. He confessed it to Nathan, who said,

The LORD also hath put away thy sin;... (2 Samuel 12:13). Also note that the Apostle Paul said, *... I persecuted this way unto the death, ...* (Acts 22:4)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

"MISSION IMPOSSIBLE" SALVATION PLAN

Any salvation plan that promotes the idea that you can **earn** right standing with God through human effort is doomed to failure. It is truly a "*Mission Impossible.*" Why is this so? Isaiah put it this way:

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, ... have taken us away. (Is. 64:6)

The prophet Isaiah included himself in this verse! Think for a minute. **Do you believe that God would be very impressed if you stand before Him some day, clothed in the rags and tatters of your own righteousness?** How do you think the people at the Revelation 20:11-13 judgment are going to feel? How would you feel? It will be a shocking and sobering time. What an awesome fate! Then comes the fire! Yes, God loves us, but if we reject the love offering of His Son and try to

earn forgiveness for the wrongs we've done, *we must face His justice!* God is just (Isaiah 45:21). He cannot deny what He Himself is.

God has a **Way** out for you. Come through the **Door** (John 10:9).

Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** (John 14:6 – by Him, not a church or works!)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

... **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?** Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.** (John 6:28,29)

Many Jews tried to *earn* right standing with God by keeping the commandments. But to make it by the Law (see Leviticus 18:5) meant that you had to keep the *whole* Law! You *can't* make it this way!

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10) ("... the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified **by faith**. But after that faith is come, we are **no longer** under a schoolmaster. – Galatians 3:24, 25)

The world's greatest broadjumper and a 100 year old man who tried to jump across the Grand Canyon would have a common fate... *Splatto!!* Likewise, those who try to earn salvation by law keeping will have a *zero success rate!* (cf. Romans 3:20). D. & C. 1:32 is *false* scripture ("... he that repents and **does the commandments** of the Lord **shall be forgiven;**")

The L.D.S. Church may *claim* to have a higher law than the Law of Moses. But this law would have to be as tough as, or tougher than the Mosaic Law because *God doesn't lower His standards!* *Be honest with yourself.* Are you *really* doing *all* you can? If you have bad days then 2 Nephi 25:23 *condemns you!* God certainly didn't inspire this either:

"And when he has fasted enough, prayed enough, suffered enough, and when his heart is right, he may expect that forgiveness will come" (**Repentance Brings Forgiveness**, L.D.S. Church booklet, 3rd paragraph from end.)

But Jesus *already suffered enough* for me on the cross (Colossians 1:20) so that if I'll put my faith in Him, that faith will be counted as righteousness (Romans 4:5). Did Christ die *in vain?* Listen . . .

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Galatians 2:21)

Will you miss eternal life like all those Jews did?

But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; ... For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For *Christ is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 9:31,32, 10:2-4)

Don't repeat their mistake. Trust in the living Jesus *today!*

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