

Bonus Reading

Faith & Works

Or,

*“You can’t work your way
to heaven.”*

God expects action.

Hearers must be doers: *Matthew 7:24; James 1:22*

“Faith apart from works is dead,”
and “useless.”
– *James 2:26 (also vv. 17, 20)*

Faith-based action has always been necessary to accept God’s grace. *For example,*

- **Joshua** conquering the city of Jericho, *Joshua chapter 6*
- **Naaman** receiving miraculous cleansing of his leprosy, *2 Kings chapter 5*
- **Abraham** offering Isaac. “Faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works.”
– *James 2:22 (See Genesis 15:1-6; 22:1-18.)*

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. – James 2:24

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**Our actions (“obedience,” “works”)
are not “works of the law.”**

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.
By what kind of law? By a law of works?
No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that
one is **justified by faith apart from works of the law.**
– *Romans 3:27-28*

**Our actions simply show our faith.
They’re sure nothing to brag about!**

⁸ For by **grace** you have been **saved through faith.**
And this is **not your own doing**; it is the gift of God,
⁹ **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast.
– *Ephesians 2:8-9*

**Taking action to earn our salvation is ... *impossible* !
But, taking action to **show our faith** is ... *essential* !**

End of this reading