THE QUESTION

# Does real faith have to keep showing itself in works (James 2:14–26)?

*Asked by a THF member on June 14, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 40 early Christian passages and 262 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.*

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/does-real-faith-have-to-keep-showing-itself-in-works-james-2-14-26

## The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Yes. The early writers taught that faith which never acts is dead, and that true faith keeps bearing fruit until the end of life. They held that we are justified by God's grace through faith, not by our own works, yet that living faith shows itself in obedience and in mercy to the needy.

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POINT 1 OF 7

## Words without deeds are a dead faith

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words***

Hermas pictures believers who have the Lord on their lips but not in their hearts, whose words live while their works are dead. Alexander of Alexandria urges Christians to show love in deeds, not only in words. Both match James' picture of saying kind words to the hungry and giving nothing.

**1** “Only their words are alive, while their works are dead. Such people are neither alive nor dead.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD)
*THF's updated English*
**Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

**2** “And show the fruit of charity, not in words only, but also in deeds.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Alexander of Alexandria,** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (c. 313–328 AD)
*THF's updated English*
**Source 35, page 8** Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 7

## Saving faith is followed by works

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Clement of Alexandria warns against reading Jesus' words about saving faith to mean that believing in any way at all is enough. He says works must follow, and that no one can truly believe while living without restraint.

**3** “So when we hear, "Your faith has saved you," we should not understand Him to mean, without qualification, that those who have believed in any way at all will be saved, unless works also follow.”

*later in the same passage*

“Therefore, no one can be a believer and at the same time live without restraint.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 6.14 (c. 190–215 AD)
*THF's updated English*
**Source 17, page 6** Read it in the library ›

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POINT 3 OF 7

## Yet we are justified by faith, not ourselves

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Clement of Rome says we are not justified by our own wisdom, godliness or works, but by the faith through which God has always justified people. The early writers held grace and our response together; they did not set James against this.

**4** “And we, too, being called by His will in Christ Jesus, are not justified by ourselves, nor by our own wisdom, or understanding, or godliness, or works we have accomplished in holiness of heart; but by that faith through which, from the beginning, Almighty God has justified all people; to whom be glory forever and ever.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 38, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

POINT 4 OF 7

## Abraham's faith showed itself in obedience

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Clement of Rome tells Abraham's story as faith that acted. He left his homeland, showed hospitality, and offered his son to God. This is the same example James uses to show faith working together with deeds.

**5** “Because of his faith and hospitality, he was given a son in his old age; and in his obedience, he offered his son as a sacrifice to God on one of the mountains that God showed him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 37, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

POINT 5 OF 7

## Mercy to the needy is faith at work

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words***

The Apostolic Constitutions tell church leaders to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and help prisoners. Cyprian warns that Christ rewards the merciful and threatens those who bear no fruit. This is the kind of practical care James has in mind in his example of the needy brother or sister.

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**6** “Give to orphans the care of parents; to widows, the care of husbands; to those of proper age, marriage; to the craftsman, work; to those who are unable to work, compassion; to strangers, a home; to the hungry, food; to the thirsty, drink; to the naked, clothing; to the sick, visitation; and to prisoners, help.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 31, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

**7** “He promises a reward to those who are merciful, and threatens punishment to those who bear no fruit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 27, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

POINT 6 OF 7

## Faith must continue in power to the end

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Ignatius says a tree is known by its fruit, and Christians by their conduct. What matters is not a single profession but continuing in the power of faith until the end. So faith is not proved once; it is lived out across a whole life.

**8** “The tree is made manifest by its fruit; so those who profess to be Christians shall be recognized by their conduct. For there is not now a demand for mere profession, but that a man be found continuing in the power of faith to the end.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 8, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

**9** “The work is not of promise unless a person is found in the power of faith, even to the end.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Ephesians* 14 (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 7, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

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POINT 7 OF 7

## Fruitless believers can still repent

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Hermas describes believers who stayed in the faith but stopped doing its works. Many of them repented and were restored. A faith that has grown idle is a call to quick repentance, not to despair.

**10**

> “However, they did not depart from God, but remained in the faith, although they were not doing the works of faith. Many of them, therefore, repented, and their dwelling was in the tower.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD)
*THF's updated English*

**Source 3, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

## What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say who James was arguing against in his letter.
- They do not discuss Rahab or explain why James chose his two examples.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

## The Sources

The 40 early Christian passages and 262 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–40, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 41–182, in Bible order), then 120 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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## EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *40 passages from 18 writers*

### **Barnabas**, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

**1** *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 6) “is as follows. If anyone desires to travel to the appointed place, they must be zealous in their works. The knowledge given to us for walking this path is as… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Clement of Rome**, *c. 88–99 AD · source 2*

**2** *Second Epistle* 16 (on point 5) earth will melt, like lead melting in fire. Then the hidden and open deeds of men will appear. Almsgiving, then, is good as repentance from sin. Fasting is better than… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Hermas**, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–6*

**3** *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “did not, however, depart from God, but remained in the faith, although not working the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**4** *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 7) ear to me, then, and fear Him who has all power, both to save and destroy… [continues online] **read ›**

**5** *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “their words alone live, while their works are dead… [continues online] **read ›**

**6** *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 6) “every one that has power ought to be feared… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Ignatius of Antioch**, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 7–10*

**7** *Epistle to the Ephesians* 14 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “work is not of promise, unless a man be found in the power of faith, even to the end… [continues online] **read ›**

**8** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* **Quote 8, page 4** the beginning is faith, and the end is love… [continues online] **read ›**

**9** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (on point 2) “as faith cannot do the works of unbelief, nor unbelief the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**10** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (on point 2) “as faith cannot do the works of unbelief, nor unbelief the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Polycarp**, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 11–12*

**11** *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 5) you can do good, defer it not… [continues online] **read ›**

**12** *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 2) faith which has been given you, and which, being followed by hope, and preceded by love… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Aristides**, *c. 125–140 AD · source 13*

**13** *Apology* 15 (1885 English; on point 5) “if there is among them any that is poor and needy, and if they have no spare food, they fast two or three days in order to supply to the… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Irenaeus**, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 14–15*

**14** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) “And not merely in works, but also in faith, has God preserved the will of man free and under his own control, saying, “According to thy faith be it unto… [continues online] **read ›**

**15** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 3) “it is truly “one God who” directed the patriarchs towards His dispensations, and “has justified the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith.” For as in the first we… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Clement of Alexandria**, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 16–19*

**16** *Stromata* 1.7 (on point 3) “Abraham was not justified by works, but by faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**17** *Stromata* 6.14 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “that when we hear, Your faith has saved you, we do not understand Him to say absolutely that those who have believed in any way whatever shall be saved, unless… [continues online] **read ›**

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**18** *Stromata* 2.4 (1885 English) “having, therefore, justified these before the law, made them heirs of the divine promise… [continues online] **read ›**

**19** *Stromata* 7.11 (1885 English; on point 2) “firm, in my opinion, was the faith they possessed, which was followed by works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Tertullian**, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 20–23*

**20** *Against Marcion* 40 (1885 English; on point 3) “the rest, the apostle must (be permitted to) go on with his own statement, wherein he says that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but… [continues online] **read ›**

**21** *Against Marcion* 18 “Hosea 6:6. But even if the impulse of her repentance came from her faith, she heard her justification by faith through her repentance declared in the words, "Your faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**22** *Against Marcion* 40 (1885 English; on point 2) “42:4 — of that faith which, he says works by love… [continues online] **read ›**

**23** *On Patience* 12 (on point 2) whose teaching but that of Patience is Charity trained? Charity is the highest sacrament of the faith, the treasure-house of the Christian name, which the apostle commends with the… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Hippolytus**, *c. 200–236 AD · source 24*

**24** *Against Plato* 1 out the Father's righteous judgment for all, assigns to each what is righteous according to his works. And while standing before His judgment, all, both men and angels and… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Gregory Thaumaturgus**, *c. 240–270 AD · source 25*

**25** *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “rather let us work the work of faith, let us love peace, let us exhibit concord, let us preserve unity, let us cultivate love, with which God is well pleased… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Cyprian**, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 26–29*

**26** *Treatises* (on point 2) Apostle Paul was urging the value of peace and love. He strongly declared and taught that neither faith nor alms, nor even the suffering itself of the confessor and the… [continues online] **read ›**

**27** *Treatises* **Quote 7, page 4** you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in. Naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and… [continues online] **read ›**

**28** *Treatises* (on point 2) kept brotherly love. The apostle Paul teaches this and bears witness, saying, "And though I have faith, so that I can remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing… [continues online] **read ›**

**29** *Treatises* (on point 5) in truth, and do before Him what pleases Him. And command your sons to practice righteousness and almsgiving, and to be mindful of God, and always bless His name.” Tobit… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Apostolic Constitutions**, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 30–31*

**30** *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) you gave Me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and… [continues online] **read ›**

**31** *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 6, page 4** “the thirsty, drink; to the naked, clothing… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Archelaus**, *c. 270–300 AD · source 32*

**32** *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) again he adduced the statement, that Abraham has glory, but not before God… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Methodius**, *c. 270–311 AD · source 33*

**33** *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (on point 3) you, let the cleansing of the world first take place, as in a figure. In you and by you, let that justification which is by grace be made known beforehand… [continues online] **read ›**

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**Lactantius**, *c. 290–320 AD · source 34*

**34** *Divine Institutes* 9 (on point 1) we have heard of, Cimon at Athens, who gave alms to the needy, welcomed the poor, and clothed the naked. Yet if that one thing of greatest importance is missing… [continues online] **read ›**

**Alexander of Alexandria**, *c. 313–328 AD · sources 35–36*

**35** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** "the malignant and the unbelieving are the enemies of righteousness, beware of these. Embrace faith and charity, by which all the holy men who have existed from the beginning of… [continues online] **read ›**

**36** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 1) "ill-will is opposed to charity, and unbelief to faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**Clement of Rome** · *sources 37–40*

**37** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 5, page 3** known as "the friend," was found faithful because he obeyed the words of God. In his act of obedience, he left his own country, his relatives, and his father's… [continues online] **read ›**

**38** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 4, page 3** "by that faith through which, from the beginning, Almighty… [continues online] **read ›**

**39** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 3) shall we do, then, brethren? Shall we become slothful in well-doing, and cease from the practice of… [continues online] **read ›**

**40** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 4) what reason was our father Abraham blessed? was it not because he wrought righteousness and truth through faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**THE BIBLE** *142 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

**41** **Genesis 15:6** Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. **read ›**

**42** **Genesis 43:20** saying, "We beg you, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food. **read ›**

**43** **Deuteronomy 2:28** You shall sell me food for silver, and I will eat; and you shall give me water for silver, and I will drink; I will only pass through on foot, **read ›**

**44** **1 Samuel 12:24** Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth and with all your heart; for you see what great things he has done with you. **read ›**

**45** **2 Kings 25:29** He changed his prison garments, and he ate bread continually before him all the days of his life. **read ›**

**46** **Job 24:10** And they have made the naked sleep unjustly, and taken away the bite of food from the hungry. **read ›**

**47** **Psalms 2:11** Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice greatly in him with trembling. **read ›**

**48** **Psalms 4:6** Many say, "Who will show us good things?" The light of your face, O Lord, has been stamped upon us. (Septuagint Psalm 4:7 (Psalm 4:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

**49** **Psalms 4:7** You have put gladness into my heart; from the fruit of their grain and wine and oil they have been multiplied. (Septuagint Psalm 4:8 (Psalm 4:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

**50** **Psalms 12:8** The ungodly walk all around; according to your loftiness you have greatly cared for the sons of men. (Septuagint Psalm 11:9 (Psalm 12:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

**51** **Psalms 114:7** The earth was shaken at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, (Septuagint Psalm 113:7 (Psalm 114:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

**52** **Ecclesiastes 7:17** Do not act very ungodly, and do not be hard, lest you die before your time. **read ›**

**53** **Song of Solomon 2:11** For behold, the winter is past, the rain is over, it has gone its way. **read ›**

**54** **Song of Solomon 3:5** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases. **read ›**

**55** **Isaiah 1:26** And I will establish your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning; and after this you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful mother city Zion. **read ›**

**56** **Isaiah 6:2** And seraphim stood around him; six wings to the one, and six wings to the other; and with two they covered the face, and with two they covered the feet, and with two they flew. **read ›**

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57 **Isaiah 7:1** Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up against Jerusalem to make war on it, but they could not besiege it. **read ›**

58 **Isaiah 7:19** and they shall all come into the valleys of the land, and into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves, and into every crevice. **read ›**

59 **Isaiah 7:21** And it shall be in that day that a man shall rear a young cow and two sheep; **read ›**

60 **Isaiah 13:3** I am giving command, and I bring them; giants are coming to fulfill my wrath, rejoicing and insulting together. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 13:17** Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against you, who do not regard silver, nor have need of gold. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 17:12** Woe to the multitude of many nations! Like the surging sea, so you will be troubled; and the back of many nations will roar like water. **read ›**

65 **Jeremiah 2:11** whether nations will change their gods—and these are not gods! But my people have changed their glory for something from which they will not profit. **read ›**

66 **Jeremiah 16:7** and no bread at all shall be broken in their mourning for comfort over the dead; they shall not give him a cup to drink for comfort over his father and his mother. **read ›**

67 **Jeremiah 24:4** And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 32:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

69 **Lamentations 1:4** Daleth. The roads of Zion mourn, because no one comes to the feast; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her virgins are led away, and she herself is bitter within. **read ›**

70 **Lamentations 1:14** Nun. Watch has been kept over my ungodly deeds; they are twined together in my hands; they have come up upon my neck; my strength has failed; for the Lord has put pains in my hands; I shall not be able to stand. **read ›**

71 **Ezekiel 1:7** And their legs were straight, and their feet were winged, and there were sparks like flashing bronze; and their wings were nimble. **read ›**

72 **Ezekiel 22:3** and you shall say: Thus says the Lord God: O city that sheds blood in her midst, so that her time may come, and that makes inventions against herself, to defile herself! **read ›**

73 **Ezekiel 24:10** and I will multiply the wood and kindle the fire, so that the flesh may melt and the broth be reduced, **read ›**

74 **Ezekiel 30:3** For the day of the Lord is near; it shall be a day, the end of the nations. **read ›**

75 **Ezekiel 30:4** And a sword shall come upon the Egyptians, and there shall be turmoil in the land of Ethiopia, and the wounded shall fall together in Egypt, and her foundations shall fall. **read ›**

76 **Ezekiel 39:11** And it shall be on that day that I will give Gog a famous place, a tomb in Israel, the common graveyard of the attackers, beside the sea; and they shall wall around the mouth of the ravine, and they shall bury Gog there and all his multitude, and then it shall be called The Common Graveyard of Gog. **read ›**

77 **Daniel 11:18** And he shall turn his face to the islands and capture many, and he shall make rulers cease from their taunts; but his own taunts shall return upon him. **read ›**

78 **Hosea 5:14** For I am like a panther to Ephraim, and like a lion to the house of Judah; and I will seize and go, and I will take, and there shall be no one to deliver. **read ›**

79 **Amos 1:15** and its kings shall go into captivity, their priests and their rulers together, says the Lord. **read ›**

80 **Amos 3:14** For in the day when I avenge the ungodly deeds of Israel upon him, I will also take vengeance on the altars of Bethel; and the horns of the altar shall be broken off, and they shall fall to the ground. **read ›**

81 **Amos 5:14** Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord God Almighty shall be with you, as you have said: **read ›**

82 **Micah 7:17** they will lick the dust like serpents crawling on the earth; they will be thrown into confusion in their enclosure; they will be amazed at the Lord our God, and they will be afraid of you. **read ›**

83 **Habakkuk 2:4** If he draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him; but the righteous will live by my faithfulness. **read ›**

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84 **Malachi 1:5** And your eyes will see, and you will say, “The Lord has been magnified above the borders of Israel.” **read ›**

85 **Malachi 2:4** And you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that my covenant might be with the Levites, says the Lord Almighty. **read ›**

86 **Tobit 1:16** And in the days of Enemessar I did many acts of alms for my brothers: **read ›**

87 **Tobit 2:14** But she said, “It was given to me as a gift in addition to the wages.” And I did not believe her, and I told her to give it back to the owners, and I was ashamed of her. But she answered and said to me, “Where are your alms and your righteous deeds? See, everything about you is known.” **read ›**

88 **Tobit 4:6** For if you do the truth, there will be success in your works, and success for all who do righteousness. **read ›**

89 **Tobit 4:7** Give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will certainly not be turned away from you. **read ›**

90 **Tobit 12:8** Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. **read ›**

91 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:15** For righteousness is immortal. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:22** and they did not know the mysteries of God, nor did they hope for the wages of holiness, nor discern the prize for blameless souls. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:24** But through the envy of the devil death entered the world, and those who belong to his side experience it. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:14** And blessed is the eunuch who has done no lawless deed with his hand, nor devised evil things against the Lord; for to him will be given the choice grace of faith, and a more delightful lot in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:16** The righteous man who has died will condemn the ungodly who are living, and youth quickly made perfect will condemn the many years of the unrighteous man’s old age. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:14** For the hope of the ungodly is like dust carried by the wind, like fine frost driven away by a whirlwind; it is scattered like smoke before the wind, and passes away like the remembrance of a guest who stays a single day. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:19** And through such works you taught your people that the righteous man must love mankind, and you made your sons of good hope, that you give repentance for sins. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:17** But being mortal, he makes a dead thing with lawless hands; for he is better than the objects he worships, since he lived, but they never did. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:8** You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will by no means fail. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:12** Woe to cowardly hearts and to slack hands, and to the sinner who walks on two paths! **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:13** Woe to the slack heart, for it does not trust; therefore it will not be sheltered. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:17** Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and will humble their souls before him. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:16** Give and take, and indulge your soul, for in Hades there is no seeking of luxury. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:15** If you are willing, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is of your own good will. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:14** He will make room for every act of mercy; each one will find according to his works. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:28** From the dead, as from one who does not exist, thanksgiving perishes; the one who is alive and well will praise the Lord. **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 22:23** Gain the trust of your neighbor in his poverty, so that you may be filled together with him in his good things; stand by him in a time of trouble, so that you may share his inheritance with him. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:21** The first need of life is water and bread and clothing, and a house to cover nakedness. **read ›**

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110 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:22** Better is the life of a poor man under a shelter of beams than splendid food in the houses of others. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:23** In every work trust your own soul, for this too is the keeping of the commandments. **read ›**

113 **Baruch 2:17** Open your eyes and see; for it is not the dead in Hades, whose spirit has been taken from their inward parts, who will give glory and justice to the Lord; **read ›**

114 **1 Maccabees 2:52** Was not Abraham found faithful in trial, and it was counted to him for righteousness? **read ›**

115 **1 Maccabees 15:34** Now that we have the opportunity, we are holding firmly to the inheritance of our fathers. **read ›**

116 **2 Maccabees 7:17** But as for you, hold out, and see his mighty power, how he will torment you and your seed." **read ›**

117 **2 Maccabees 12:44** For if he had not expected that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been needless and foolish to pray for the dead. **read ›**

118 **2 Maccabees 12:45** And then, looking to the most splendid reward laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness—a holy and godly thought—he therefore made atonement for the dead, that they might be released from their sin. **read ›**

119 **3 Maccabees 2:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **4 Maccabees 1:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **4 Maccabees 6:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **4 Maccabees 7:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **4 Maccabees 7:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **4 Maccabees 12:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **4 Maccabees 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **4 Maccabees 13:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **4 Maccabees 16:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **4 Maccabees 17:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **1 Enoch 1:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **1 Enoch 1:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

134 **1 Enoch 1:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

135 **1 Enoch 37:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

136 **1 Enoch 61:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

137 **1 Enoch 63:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 69:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 98:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 102:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **1 Enoch 108:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

142 **1 Enoch 108:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

143 **Matthew 6:11** Give us today our daily bread. **read ›**

144 **Matthew 10:10** nor a bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for the laborer is worthy of his food. **read ›**

145 **Luke 3:2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. **read ›**

146 **Luke 10:17** The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" **read ›**

147 **Luke 11:3** Give us day by day our daily bread. **read ›**

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148 **Luke 12:5** But I will show you whom you should fear. Fear him who, after killing, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. **read ›**

149 **Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **read ›**

150 **Acts 3:3** Seeing Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked for alms. **read ›**

151 **Acts 20:2** When he had gone through those parts and had encouraged them with many words, he came into Greece. **read ›**

152 **Acts 24:17** After several years I came to bring alms to my nation and offerings. **read ›**

153 **Acts 24:18** While I was doing this, some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, without a crowd or an uproar. **read ›**

154 **Romans 1:17** For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faithfulness to faithfulness. As it is written: But the righteous will live by faithfulness. **read ›**

155 **Romans 2:12** For as many as have sinned without the law will also perish without the law. As many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. **read ›**

156 **Romans 3:10** as it is written: There is none righteous, not even one; **read ›**

157 **Romans 3:28** We maintain therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. **read ›**

158 **Romans 3:30** since indeed there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **read ›**

159 **Romans 4:2** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not toward God. **read ›**

160 **Romans 4:5** But to him who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. **read ›**

161 **1 Corinthians 4:11** To this very hour we hunger and thirst, are poorly clothed and beaten, and have no settled home, **read ›**

162 **1 Corinthians 13:2** And if I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **read ›**

163 **1 Corinthians 13:13** But now faithfulness, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love. **read ›**

164 **2 Corinthians 1:11** you also helping us by prayer, so that thanks may be given by many on your behalf for the gracious gift given to us through many people. **read ›**

165 **2 Corinthians 4:5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. **read ›**

166 **Galatians 2:16** yet knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faithfulness of Christ and not by works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by works of the law. **read ›**

167 **Ephesians 4:10** He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. **read ›**

168 **1 Timothy 1:5** But the goal of the command is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faithfulness, **read ›**

169 **Hebrews 10:27** but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which will devour the adversaries. **read ›**

170 **Hebrews 10:31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **read ›**

171 **James 2:14** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but has no works? Can that faith save him? **read ›**

172 **James 2:15** And if a brother or sister is naked and lacking daily food, **read ›**

173 **James 2:17** Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. **read ›**

174 **James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith by your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **read ›**

175 **James 2:19** You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder. **read ›**

176 **James 2:20** But do you want to know, O empty man, that faith apart from works is dead? **read ›**

177 **James 2:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? **read ›**

178 **James 2:22** Do you see that faithfulness was working with his works, and by works faithfulness was made perfect? **read ›**

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**179** **James 2:24** You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. **read ›**

**180** **James 2:26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead. **read ›**

**181** **James 4:7** Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **read ›**

**182** **Revelation 12:12** Therefore rejoice, heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has gone down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has but a short time." **read ›**

## ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *120 verses, by reference*

*Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.*

**Genesis** 1:26

**Exodus** 20:7

**Psalms** 33:9

**Proverbs** 8:13 · 9:10

**Ecclesiastes** 12:13

**Joel** 2:12

**Matthew** 5:3 · 5:16 · 5:17 · 5:19 · 5:23 · 5:25 · 5:42 · 10:28 · 10:32 · 12:33 · 18:21 · 19:9 · 25:34

**Mark** 1:24 · 2:8 · 2:11 · 5:34 · 12:33

**Luke** 3:4 · 4:34 · 6:1 · 6:29 · 6:30 · 6:37 · 7:1 · 7:11 · 7:16 · 7:20 · 7:21 · 7:25 · 7:26 · 7:28 · 7:36 · 10:27 · 14:33 · 15:3 · 15:11 · 16:16

**John** 3:7 · 4:18 · 6:63 · 7:17 · 10:16 · 10:27 · 14:15 · 21:19

**Acts** 16:3 · 21:23

**Romans** 1:3 · 2:28 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 8:29 · 9:5 · 12:10

**1 Corinthians** 2:9 · 3:12 · 4:13 · 8:6 · 9:20 · 9:22 · 12:13 · 13:8 · 15:46 · 15:58

**2 Corinthians** 3:6 · 3:7

**Galatians** 1:6 · 1:8 · 2:1 · 2:2 · 2:3 · 2:4 · 2:9 · 2:10 · 2:12 · 2:18 · 3:6 · 4:26 · 5:6 · 5:10 · 5:14 · 6:2 · 6:7 · 6:9 · 6:10 · 6:14 · 6:17

**Ephesians** 4:26 · 6:9

**Philippians** 1:4

**Colossians** 1:10

**1 Thessalonians** 5:18

**1 Timothy** 1:1 · 3:16

**2 Timothy** 3:2 · 4:6

**Hebrews** 9:14 · 11:3 · 11:4 · 11:17 · 11:32

**James** 1:8 · 2:23

**1 Peter** 1:23 · 2:12 · 2:17 · 3:18 · 5:5

**2 Peter** 3:15

**1 John** 3:7 · 4:18

**Jude** 1:11

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*Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.*

## ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Does real faith have to keep showing itself in works (James 2:14–26)?” on June 14, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

**Library only.** This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY