THE QUESTION

What did early Christians teach about faith without works (James 2:14–26)?

Asked by a THF member on June 14, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 31 early Christian passages and 182 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-early-christians-teach-about-faith-without-works-james-2-14-26

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

The early writers taught that real faith shows itself in good works, just as James says. A faith that lives only on the lips is dead. Yet they also taught that we are made right with God by His grace through faith, not by our own works, and that faith must keep working by love to the end.

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 at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Faith and unbelief produce different works	**2**	**6**	True faith works through love	**4**
2	Faith only on the lips is dead	**2**	**7**	The church prayed to be doers	**5**
3	Saving faith is followed by works	**3**	**8**	Faith must keep going to the end	**5**
4	We are not justified by our own works	**3**		What these passages don't tell us	**5**
5	Abraham is the father of our faith	**4**		The Sources: 31 early Christian passages and 182 Bible verses, with links	**6**

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POINT 1 OF 8

Faith and unbelief produce different works

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

Ignatius says each kind of life produces its own kind of deeds. Faith cannot produce the deeds of unbelief, and unbelief cannot produce the deeds of faith. This matches James: what a person truly believes shows in what he does.

1 “Those who are carnal cannot do things that are spiritual, nor can those who are spiritual do things that are carnal, just as faith cannot do the works of unbelief, nor unbelief the works of faith.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 6, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 8

Faith only on the lips is dead

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

Hermas describes believers who honor the Lord with words but not with the heart. He says their words are alive but their works are dead, much like James's picture of dead faith. He also says they may still live if they repent quickly.

2 “And from the fourth mountain, which had much grass, with the tops of the plants green but the parts around the roots dried up, and some also scorched by the sun, these are the people who believed: the doubtful, and those who have the Lord on their lips but do not have Him in their heart.”

later in the same passage

“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 4, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 3 OF 8

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 "Your faith has saved you" as if any kind of belief is enough. He says works must follow. Elsewhere he praises the faith of martyrs because works of faith followed it.

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.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 6.14 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “For, in my opinion, the faith they had was firm, and works of faith followed it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 7.11 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 16, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

We are not justified by our own works

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

Clement of Rome says that God's people are not made right by their own wisdom, godliness or good deeds, but by faith. Clement of Alexandria also says Abraham was justified by faith. For them, works never replace faith or God's grace.

5 “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 29, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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6 “But Abraham was not justified by works, but by faith.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 1.7 (c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 12, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 5 OF 8

Abraham is the father of our faith

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

James and Paul both point to Abraham. Irenaeus calls him the father of all who believe, because he trusted God's promise about things not yet seen. Our faith, he says, is the same kind of trust.

7 “For these reasons, the apostle declared that this man was not only the prophet of faith but also the father of those who believe in Jesus Christ among the Gentiles, because his faith and ours are the same: he believed in future things as if they were already accomplished, because of the promise of God; and similarly, we also, because of the promise of God, see through faith that inheritance stored up for us in the future kingdom.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 10, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 6 OF 8

True faith works through love

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

Tertullian points to Paul's phrase about faith that works by love, which ties Paul and James together. Cyprian warns that even great works done in Christ's name are not enough without walking in the right and just way of obedience.

8 “It is also the faith which, he says, "works by love,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 40 (c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 18, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

9 “But a person does not attain the kingdom of heaven, even if he is found in all these things, unless he walks in keeping the right and just way.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 24, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

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POINT 7 OF 8

The church prayed to be doers

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

An early liturgy asks God for light to understand His word and to become doers of good deeds, not only hearers. The prayer joins sincere faith with a blameless life, as James does.

10 “Then may we not only be found to be hearers of spiritual things, but also doers of good deeds, pursuing sincere faith, a blameless life, and pure conduct.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 20, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Faith must keep going to the end

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

The Didache warns that years of faith will not help a person who is not made perfect at the last. Ignatius likewise says the work counts only when a person stays in the power of faith to the end.

11 “For all the time of your faith will not benefit you if you are not made perfect in the last time.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 16 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

12 “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 8, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages quotes or explains James 2:14–26 line by line.
- They do not spell out exactly how James's words about Abraham and Rahab fit with Paul's words in Romans.

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- 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 31 early Christian passages and 182 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–31, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 32–109, in Bible order), then 104 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).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *31 passages from 14 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 16 (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "24:42 But often shall you come together, seeking the things which are befitting to your souls: for the whole time of your faith will not profit you, if you… [continues online] **read ›**

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

2 *Second Epistle* 15 (1885 English) "5:19-25 For this recompense we are able to render to the God who created us, if he who speaks and hears both speak and hear with faith and… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Shepherd* (on point 3) of the Lord. Now listen to their functions. The first one, who is clasping her hands, is called Faith. Through her, the elect of God are saved. Another one, who… [continues online] **read ›**

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

5 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 2) "did not, however, depart from God, but remained in the faith, although not working the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 6–8*

6 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* **Quote 1, page 2** "as faith cannot do the works of unbelief, nor unbelief the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (on point 1) "as faith cannot do the works of unbelief, nor unbelief the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistle to the Ephesians* 14 (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** "work is not of promise, unless a man be found in the power of faith, even to the end… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 9*

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

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 10*

10 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 7, page 4** our faith was also prefigured in Abraham, and he was the patriarch of our faith and, in a way, its prophet, as the apostle clearly taught when he says in… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 11–16*

11 *Stromata* 2.22 (on point 6) “in Christ neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith which works by love… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Stromata* 1.7 **Quote 6, page 4** “Abraham was not justified by works, but by faith… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 5.1 (on point 3) taken away from them, because the elect are saved by instruction, purification, and the doing of good works. Accordingly, Abraham, who through hearing believed the voice that promised under the… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Stromata* 6.14 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** “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 ›**

15 *Stromata* 1.19 (1885 English) “therefore Solomon says: He who sows righteousness, works faith… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Stromata* 7.11 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “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 17–19*

17 *Against Marcion* 40 (1885 English; on point 4) “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 ›**

18 *Against Marcion* 40 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “42:4 — of that faith which, he says works by love… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Against Marcion* 40 (1885 English; on point 4) “object, therefore, of the faith whereby the just man shall live, will be that same God to whom likewise belongs the law, by doing which no man is justified… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 20*

20 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “who hast taught us Your divine and saving oracles, enlighten the souls of us sinners for the comprehension of the things which have been before spoken, so that we may… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 21–22*

21 *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 ›**

22 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “in like manner, the Gentiles by faith in Christ prepare for themselves eternal life through good works… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 23*

23 *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “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 24–25*

24 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “7:22-23 There is need of righteousness, that one may deserve well of God the Judge… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Treatises* “the ministers there was no sound faith. In their works there was no mercy… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 26–27*

26 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) again he adduced the statement, that Abraham has glory, but not before God… [continues online] **read ›**

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27 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English) “if we reckon that man is justified without the works of the law, and if Abraham was counted righteous, how much more shall those obtain righteousness who have fulfilled the… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 28–31*

28 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 5) Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 5, page 3** we, too, being called by His will in Christ Jesus, are not justified by ourselves, nor by our own wisdom, or understanding, or godliness… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 5) what reason was our father Abraham blessed? was it not because he wrought righteousness and truth through faith… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 4) shall we do, then, brethren? Shall we become slothful in well-doing, and cease from the practice of… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *78 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

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

33 **Exodus 16:23** Moses said to them, “Is this not the word that the Lord spoke? Tomorrow is the Sabbath, a holy rest to the Lord. Bake what you will bake, and boil what you will boil; and all that is left over, set it aside to be kept until morning.” **read ›**

34 **Deuteronomy 32:4** God—true are his works, and all his ways are judgment; God is faithful, and there is no unrighteousness; righteous and holy is the Lord. **read ›**

35 **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 ›**

36 **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 ›**

37 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

38 **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 ›**

39 **Isaiah 1:12** not even if you come to appear before me; for who has required these things from your hands? You shall no longer tread my court. **read ›**

40 **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 ›**

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

42 **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 ›**

43 **Jeremiah 23:1** Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of their pasture! **read ›**

44 **Jeremiah 33:12** Thus said the Lord of hosts: In this place that is desolate, because there is no man and no beast, and in all its cities, there shall yet be places to stay for shepherds resting their sheep, (Septuagint Jeremiah 40:12 (Jeremiah 33:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

45 **Jeremiah 47:1** Against the Philistines. Thus says the Lord: (Septuagint Jeremiah 29:1 (Jeremiah 47:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

46 **Ezekiel 4:17** so that they may lack bread and water; and a man and his brother shall be ruined, and they shall waste away in their unrighteous deeds. **read ›**

47 **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 ›**

48 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

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49 **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 ›**

50 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

51 **Hosea 12:14** Ephraim provoked wrath and provoked anger, and his blood shall be poured out upon him, and the Lord will repay him for his taunts. (Septuagint Hosea 12:15 (Hosea 12:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

52 **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 ›**

53 **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 ›**

54 **1 Esdras 1:23** And the works of Josiah were upright before his Lord, with a heart full of godliness. **read ›**

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

56 **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 ›**

57 **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 ›**

58 **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 ›**

59 **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 ›**

60 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:7** For blessed is the wood through which righteousness comes. **read ›**

61 **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 ›**

62 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:1** My child, if you come forward to serve the Lord God, prepare your soul for testing. **read ›**

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

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

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:27** Better is one who works in all things than one who walks about, or one who glorifies himself and lacks bread. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:21** Do not marvel at the works of a sinner; trust in the Lord and keep to your labor; for it is easy in the eyes of the Lord to make a needy man rich quickly, in an instant. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:12** As great as his mercy, so great also is his rebuke; he judges a man according to his works. **read ›**

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

69 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:22** Who will declare works of righteousness, or who will endure them? For the covenant is far off. **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:23** Before you pray, prepare yourself, and do not be like a man who tests the Lord. **read ›**

71 **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 ›**

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

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:24** He who believes the law pays attention to the commandments, and he who trusts in the Lord will not suffer loss. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:33** All the works of the Lord are good, and he will supply every need in its hour. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:2** of the law of the Most High and of the covenant, and of judgment, to justify the ungodly; **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 51:30** Do your work before the time, and in his time he will give you your reward. **read ›**

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77 **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 ›**

78 **1 Maccabees 2:52** Was not Abraham found faithful in trial, and it was counted to him for righteousness? **read ›**

79 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

80 **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 ›**

81 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **4 Maccabees 1:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **4 Maccabees 7:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **4 Maccabees 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

85 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **4 Maccabees 16:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **1 Enoch 41:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **1 Enoch 61:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **1 Enoch 63:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 69:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 91:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **1 Enoch 98:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **Matthew 2:3** When King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **read ›**

94 **John 3:18** He who believes in him is not judged. He who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. **read ›**

95 **Acts 5:23** “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!” **read ›**

96 **Romans 2:13** For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified **read ›**

97 **Romans 3:20** Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. **read ›**

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

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

100 **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 ›**

101 **Galatians 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any force, but faithfulness working through love. **read ›**

102 **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 ›**

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

104 **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 ›**

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

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

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

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

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

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *104 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.

Daniel 12:1

Matthew 5:3 · 5:16 · 5:17 · 5:19 · 9:22 · 10:32 · 13:35 · 17:20 · 22:29 · 24:10 · 24:11 · 24:13 · 24:21 · 24:30 · 24:42

Mark 2:11 · 5:34

Luke 3:4 · 6:1 · 6:29 · 12:35 · 14:11 · 14:33 · 16:16 · 17:5 · 17:6

John 1:3 · 1:12 · 7:17 · 10:16 · 10:27

Acts 16:3 · 21:23

Romans 1:11 · 1:17 · 2:14 · 2:15 · 2:28 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 4:11 · 5:4 · 6:22 · 9:5 · 12:10

1 Corinthians 1:21 · 2:9 · 3:12 · 4:13 · 9:20 · 9:22 · 11:1 · 12:12 · 13:2 · 13:8 · 13:12 · 15:23 · 15:46 · 15:56 · 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 · 3:7 · 3:13 · 3:26 · 5:10 · 5:14 · 5:22 · 6:2 · 6:7 · 6:9 · 6:10 · 6:14 · 6:17

Philippians 1:4

Colossians 1:10

1 Thessalonians 4:17

2 Timothy 2:23 · 4:6

Hebrews 4:14 · 6:9 · 6:11 · 11:17

James 2:23

1 Peter 2:12 · 2:17 · 4:7 · 4:12 · 5:5

2 Peter 1:5

Jude 1:11

Revelation 20:5

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did early Christians teach about faith without 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.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY