

# Occasional Update #5

Saturday 6 August 2022

## FAITH *and* WORKS?

Hi everyone!

I have just been reading through some notes I wrote many years ago, on the letter which James wrote to the early Church. Again I was reminded that, while our faith in the one true LORD God is critical to our salvation, the Lord has also told us, and shown us, that one of the main *evidences* of our faith, here on earth, is the *demonstration* of our faith in the ways Jesus taught and lived.

- Faith, without Works, is dead physically.
- Works, without Faith, is dead spiritually.

We all need to demonstrate both Faith *and* works; and also a Faith *that* works!

One of the reasons the Salvation Army is so well known in our society is because it is particularly well known for its *demonstration* of help to those in need.

**Faith** demonstrates our belief in Almighty God – our Creator, our Saviour, and His Spirit. **Works** demonstrate that our Faith in God, His love, and salvation are not *just* spiritual, but physical actions that *demonstrate* what we believe and *show* God's love for people, especially people "in need" (that's all of us at different times!) It's a matter of ...  
*"Don't just tell me – show me!"*

Good works are seen by what we do, which unfortunately is not always the same as what we say. The majority of people are "good", in the general sense of the word, and may be admired by many. That's great, but it doesn't necessarily mean they know the Lord and are followers of Jesus. Their works may be good, but their "faith" may be in the world, in themselves, in other people; or a multitude of other beliefs, gods, religions, etc.

Obviously we should encourage what is good, but that does not necessarily mean a person knows the Lord and His salvation. Conversely, everyone who does know the Lord and follows Him, must seek to do what is good, pleasing to God, and a blessing to other people.

## FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Think about, and pray about, how our 'good works' – in practice, not just in theory – can be increasingly demonstrated through each of the following ways:

**Works, demonstrated ...**

THROUGH THE CHURCH  
THROUGH GOVERNMENT  
THROUGH SOCIETY  
THROUGH ME

Think about, and pray about, how our faith – in practice, not just in theory – can be increasingly demonstrated through each of the following ways:

**Faith, demonstrated ...**

THROUGH THE CHURCH  
THROUGH CHRISTIANS  
THROUGH ME

**For those who would like to read it, the "James Letter" referred to above is the *last link* on our website page <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/bible-study-books.php>**

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