***David slew Goliath.*  But it could also be said that *the Lord slew Goliath*. It is the same principle seen in the actions of the two angels in** [**Genesis 18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18&t=NKJV)**;** [**19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19&t=NKJV)**. *Acting under fixed laws*, the actions of these angels were seen as *the Lord’s actions*; and *acting by faith*, David’s actions were seen as *the Lord’s actions*. Thus, comparing these accounts in Genesis, Numbers, Joshua, and 1 Samuel, *acting by faith can only be seen as acting under a fixed divine law that cannot change.***

**Faith and Works – Not Contradictory** *Justification by Faith, Justification by Works*

**Arlen L. Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?*

*But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?*

*Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?*

*And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*

*and he was called the friend of God.*

*You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.* ([James 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.14&t=NKJV), [20-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.20-24&t=NKJV))

[**My note**, not Arlen's: There are three ***aspects/facets*** of salvation – ***spirit****,* ***body*** and ***soul****.*]

[James 2:14-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.14-26&t=NKJV) has been an enigma over the years for many individuals studying the salvation message in Scripture. But that should not be the case at all, *unless* a person tries to see the salvation that we *presently* possess — the salvation dealt with in [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-9&t=NKJV) — as the salvation or justification being dealt with in James.

Faith and works in relation to salvation or justification in James is completely consistent with and perfectly in line with the overall salvation message taught elsewhere in Scripture. James is dealing with the salvation of the *soul* ([James 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.21&t=NKJV)), *not* with the salvation that we *presently possess*; and, unlike the absence of works in connection with man in the salvation that we *presently* possess, works are presented after a different fashion in Scriptures dealing with the salvation of the *soul*, for man now appears in an *active* rather than a passive sense in the matter.

In [James 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.14&t=NKJV), two self-answering questions are asked. The negative used in the Greek text (*me*) necessitates that the two questions be understood in a “no” respect. A proper translation of the verse into English, with the Greek negative *me* in view, would read along these lines:

*“My Brethren, though a man say he has faith, but does not have works, he cannot profit, can he? Faith* [*i.e*., faith apart from works] *cannot save him, can it?”*

And further down in the chapter, comments and examples are given concerning faith and works in relation to salvation. In [James 2:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.21&t=NKJV), Abraham is seen as having been justified by works when he had offered his son on the altar, as seen in [Genesis 22:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.1ff&t=NKJV). And, calling attention to [Genesis 15:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.6&t=NKJV), it is further stated in [James 2:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.23&t=NKJV) that Abraham, at this same time, acted by faith; and God reckoned Abraham’s faithfulness to him for righteousness ([Hebrews 11:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.17&t=NKJV)).

The same account, Abraham offering his son, is referenced in [Hebrews 10:38-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.38-39&t=NKJV). And in this verse, *faith to a saving of the soul*, as in James, is inferred from the way this chapter is introduced in the last two verses of the previous chapter.

*Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*

*But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul* [*lit.* ‘but of faith to a saving of the soul’]. ([Hebrews 10:38-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.38-39&t=NKJV))

With these two verses leading into and introducing [Hebrews 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11&t=NKJV), providing the subject matter, each reference to “faith” in the chapter should be understood in line with these verses, as *faith to a saving of the soul*. This chapter, as [James 2:14-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.14-26&t=NKJV), has to do with *present and future aspects of salvation*, *not* with the *past aspect*. And this chapter, exactly as in James, has to do with *faith and works in relation to this salvation*. And, as in James, so in Hebrews — *the actions of individuals in relation to the salvation of the soul are seen.*

(See [Key of Three / Hope of Glory Class Documents LINK](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Key%20of%20Three%20/%20Hope%20of%20Glory%20Class%20Documents%20LINK), and then click on *Biblical Trichotomies* for additional commentary on the *past*, *present* and *future* aspects of salvation.

Also see [Make-Up of Man](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Make-Up%20of%20Man) and [Mark and Carol Miller's Key of Three Study](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Mark%20and%20Carol%20Miller%27s%20Key%20of%20Three%20Study), all in this website.

As an aside the following may be of interest:

Bible Trichotomies I've gathered to date -- 199 Trichotomies! The following Word Document is SAFE to open and print: [Trichotomies of the Bible.docx](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/resources/Trichotomies_of_the_Bible/Trichotomies%20of%20the%20Bible.docx).)

Actually, in Scripture, there is *no such thing as salvation apart from works*, whether past, present, or future aspects of salvation. As well, in Scripture, there is *no such thing as salvation apart from grace and faith*. The wording in [Ephesians 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8&t=NKJV), “*by grace . . . through faith*,” would apply not only to the *past* aspect of salvation, as seen in this verse, but to *present* and *future* aspects of salvation as well — the *salvation of the soul* (*ref.* the author’s book, [Salvation of the Soul](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php), in this site).

(Both “grace” and “faith” are seen in relation to the salvation of the *soul* in [1 Peter 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9&t=NKJV):

“*Receiving the end* [‘goal’] *of your faith — the salvation of your souls*.” “Grace” in relation to the salvation of the soul in [1 Peter 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9&t=NKJV) is seen in [1 Peter 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.2&t=NKJV),[10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.10&t=NKJV),[13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.13&t=NKJV); and “faith” in relation to the salvation of the soul is seen in [1 Peter 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.5&t=NKJV), [7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.7-9&t=NKJV).)

The salvation that we presently possess is wrought through divine works — the Spirit *breathing life into the one having no life* — and is based on a finished, divine work, *the finished work of God’s Son*. Unsaved man is spiritually dead and cannot function in the spiritual realm. He can do no more than allow God to do a work on his behalf.

But, once man has passed “*from death to life*,” coming into possession of spiritual life, he can *then be active* in the spiritual realm. And, as the *ruined earth* was able to bring forth in [Genesis 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1&t=NKJV) after the Spirit of God had moved upon the face of the waters, God had spoken, and light had come into existence ([Genesis 1:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-3&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.11&t=NKJV) [2b], *ruined man*, as well, is able to bring forth following a divine work on his behalf ([Ephesians 2:8-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-10&t=NKJV)).

Once man possesses spiritual life [spiritual aspect] and is able to function in the spiritual realm, as in [Hebrews 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11&t=NKJV) or [James 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2&t=NKJV) , he, as the earth in [Genesis 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.11&t=NKJV), can *bring forth*. But *faith must precede and be inseparably connected with man bringing forth, producing works*. And to understand how this all comes together, a principle from the Old Testament must be understood first.

**An Old Testament Principle**

To understand the proper relationship between faith and works in the lives of the people of God, one must understand a principle set forth a number of places in the Old Testament. And this principle is presented in a dual sense in Genesis chapters eighteen and nineteen.

1) [Genesis 18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18&t=NKJV); [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19&t=NKJV)

Genesis chapter eighteen begins with the Lord, accompanied by two angels, appearing to Abraham in the plains of Mamre. The Lord had come down to personally see if the report that He had heard about the things happening in Sodom and Gomorrah were true ([Genesis 18:20-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18.20-21&t=NKJV)).

(The Lord, in His omniscience, didn’t need to come down in this manner, for He already knew. But this is simply the manner in which Scripture, at times, presents matters of this nature.)

But, though the Lord said, “*I will go down*,” He remained with Abraham while the two angels accompanying Him went on down into the Jordan plain, into Sodom ([Genesis 18:21-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18.21-22&t=NKJV)).

In that respect, did the Lord go down into the Jordan plain, as He said that He would? Or did the two angels alone go down into the plain?

To address these questions, note something very similar, presented after a different fashion, in [Genesis 19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19&t=NKJV). The two angels, having seen first-hand that which was happening in Sodom, told Lot to take his family and leave the city. Sodom, along with three other cities of the plain ([Deuteronomy 29:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+29.23&t=NKJV)), was about to be destroyed.

*For we* [the two angels] *will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.* ([Genesis 19:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.13&t=NKJV))

Further down in the chapter, after Lot and his family had lingered in the city, the two angels took them by their hands and led them outside the city ([Genesis 19:15-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.15-16&t=NKJV)). Once this had been done, and Lot and his family were subsequently safe in Zoar, a nearby city that was spared ([Genesis 19:17-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.17-23&t=NKJV)]),

*Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.* ([Genesis 19:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.24&t=NKJV))

Who destroyed the cities of the plain? First the angels said that they would destroy Sodom (with the other three cities not mentioned at this point), and they further stated that the Lord had sent them to destroy Sodom. But, at the time of the destruction, the Lord is seen destroying Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other two cities (*cf.* [Deuteronomy 29:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+29.23&t=NKJV)).

Did the angels bring about this destruction, as they said they would do? Or did the Lord bring about this destruction, as the text goes on to state?

The principle seen in these two chapters has to do with angels acting under *God’s fixed laws*, with *their* actions being seen as the *actions of the One who established these laws*. Thus, matters can be stated *either way*, as seen in the chapter — *the two angels going down into Sodom is also seen as the Lord going down into Sodom*, or *the two angels destroying the cities of the plain is also seen as the Lord destroying the cities of the plain*.

God governs the universe *through angels* in this manner. Angels, placed by the Lord in regal positions throughout the universe, *govern the universe under fixed laws*. And, through so doing, *their actions are seen as the Lord’s actions*.

To see the converse of this, note Satan’s actions at the time of his fall. Satan had been placed over the earth, as the earth’s ruler. But the day came when he *stepped outside the fixed laws* under which he ruled and, *on his own*, sought to occupy a higher regal position than the one in which God had placed him. His actions thus *ceased* to be God’s actions and *were being his own*. And this *resulted in his fall and subsequent judgment* (*cf.* [Isaiah 14:12-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.12-17&t=NKJV); [Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.25&t=NKJV)).

2) [Numbers 13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13-14&t=NKJV); [Joshua 6-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+6-8&t=NKJV)

This *same* principle is seen again in the account of the Israelites under Moses at Kadesh-Barnea, and *again* thirty-eight years later under Joshua after the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River.

The Israelites, in both instances, were to go into the land and slay or drive out every single inhabitant ([Deuteronomy 7:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+7.1ff&t=NKJV)). The Israelites, going into the land with this goal in view, were to “*diligently keep the commandments of the Lord . . . His testimonies, and His statutes*” ([Deuteronomy 6:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+6.17&t=NKJV)). And they were to go into the land *believing that God would do that which He had stated that He would do*:

*And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.*

*But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed.*

*And He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven; no one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.* ([Deuteronomy 7:22-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+7.22-24&t=NKJV))

God had commanded His people to go in and take the land, and He had told them what He would do as they entered the land to take it. Going into the land, they were to *act* *completely by* *faith, believing God* (*cf.* [Hebrews 11:29-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.29-30&t=NKJV)). And *remaining in the realm of faith, their actions would be the Lord’s actions*.

Though the Israelites would be slaying the enemy, acting within the realm of faith, the *Lord would be slaying the enemy*. The Lord would be going ahead of them and delivering the enemy into their hands. It is the *same* picture, seen from a different perspective, as the angels acting under fixed laws in [Genesis 18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18&t=NKJV); [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19&t=NKJV).

Under Moses at Kadesh-Barnea though, *failure rather than success is seen*. Twelve spies had been sent into the land to spy out the land. After forty days and nights they brought back a report concerning the land and the people therein — a land flowing with milk and honey, inhabited by a strong people, some of gigantic stature.

Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, then rendered a *positive statement* concerning entering the land, with Caleb calming the people and exhorting them, saying,

*Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.* ([Numbers 13:30b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.30b&t=NKJV))

But the other ten followed with a *negative and false statement* concerning entering the land. They said,

*We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.* ([Numbers 13:31b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.31b&t=NKJV))

The people believed the false statement of the ten spies, began to murmur against Moses, and sought to appoint a new leader and return to Egypt ([Numbers 14:1-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.1-4&t=NKJV)). And, as a result, in the words of [Hebrews 6:4-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6.4-6&t=NKJV) (which, drawn from the account in [Numbers 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13&t=NKJV); [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14&t=NKJV), has to do with *Christians doing exactly the same thing in the antitype* relatively to the *heavenly land of their calling and its inhabitants* [Satan and his angels]), the *Israelites fell away at Kadesh-Barnea*; and it was then *impossible “to renew them again to repentance* [to a change of mind].”

At this point in the account, the Israelites committed a sin referred to in [Numbers 15:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+15.30&t=NKJV) as a *presumptuous sin* and in [Hebrews 10:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.26&t=NKJV) as a sin for which *there was no sacrifice*, with *nothing but judgment then awaiting the nation*. And, because of the particular nature of this sin, *God wasn’t going to repent*; that is, *God wasn’t going to change His mind* (this is the “repentance” also referred to in the antitype, in [Hebrews 6:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6.6&t=NKJV)).

*The very next day*, the generation of Israelites under Moses *repented*, changed their minds, and sought to enter the land and defeat the enemy. But *God didn’t repent, didn’t change His mind*. *God couldn’t change His mind and, at the same time, remain true to His Word*.

God was *no longer* among them with respect to their entering and taking the land. God would *no longer* go before them and deliver the enemy into their hands. And, as a result, the Israelites attempting to enter the land the next day and overthrow a stronger enemy were *themselves overthrown and driven back*.

Their actions were *their own*, *not the Lord’s* ([Numbers 14:40-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.40-45&t=NKJV)). And their actions were performed *separate from faith*, for they went forth *contrary to that which God had told them*. Thus, *defeat*, not victory, could only have been their lot.

As a result of that which occurred at Kadesh-Barnea, over the next thirty-eight years the entire generation of Israelites twenty years old and above, save Caleb and Joshua, died in the wilderness, *outside the land*.

Then, once these years had passed and those in the previous generation had died, Joshua, about to lead the second generation of Israelites into the land, sent two spies into the land ahead of the nation. And upon their return, they said to Joshua,

“*Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us*.” ([Joshua 2:24b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+2.24b&t=NKJV))

The Israelites this time, *unlike* the previous generation under Moses, believed God and prepared to enter the land and trust the Lord to deliver the enemy into their hands.

After crossing the Jordan River, the first battle involved the destruction of Jericho. And the Israelites, *believing God*, experienced *victory*.

The next battle involved the destruction of Ai. The city was not deemed large enough to require the entire Israeli army, so only about three thousand men were sent to take and destroy Ai. But, *unlike* the battle of Jericho, the Israelites were soundly defeated and driven back, with a number being slain ([Joshua 7:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+7.1-5&t=NKJV)).

Joshua, seeking the Lord’s face concerning the reason for this defeat, was told by the Lord, “*Israel has sinned .* . . .” Then, seeking that referred to by the Lord, Joshua found an Israelite (Achan) who had kept forbidden spoils from the previous destruction of Jericho. There was sin, unfaithfulness, in the camp. The matter was taken care of, and then the inhabitants of Ai could be defeated, with the Lord delivering the city into the Israelites’ hands ([Joshua 7:6ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+7.6ff&t=NKJV)).

Thus, as long as the Israelites went forth in the realm of *faith*, the Lord gave the victory. The battle was the Lord’s. *It could be said that the Israelites destroyed Jericho and Ai, along with their inhabitants; and it could also be said that the Lord destroyed these two cities, along with their inhabitants.*

3) [1 Samuel 17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17&t=NKJV)

This same principle is seen again in the account of David slaying Goliath.

David was an *unproven* “youth” in battle (probably in his late teens), going up against “*a man of war from his youth*.” This man of war, Goliath, was the Philistine army’s champion and stood between nine and ten feet tall ([1 Samuel 17:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.4&t=NKJV), [33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.33&t=NKJV)).

Goliath, to meet David, came out with full armor, carrying a spear and a sword, with a shield-bearer moving with him. The coat on his armor alone weighed about one hundred twenty-five pounds and the head of the sphere weighed about fifteen pounds ([1 Samuel 17:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.5-7&t=NKJV), [41ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.41ff&t=NKJV)).

On the other hand, David refused to wear armor as he went forth, for “*he had not proved*” himself in battle. He went forth to meet Goliath *without armor* or *a shield-bearer* and *with only a sling and five smooth stones that he had picked up in a nearby brook and placed in his bag* ([1 Samuel 17:39-40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.39-40&t=NKJV)).

He though would need *no* armor or shield-bearer and would need *only* one of the five stones. And the reason is seen within David’s words to this gigantic champion of the Philistine army:

*You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

*This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

*Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD’S, and He will give you into our hands.* ([1 Samuel 17:45-47](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.45-47&t=NKJV) [45b])

David went forth *by faith*. He went forth *believing* God, *knowing* that God would remain true to His Word and deliver the Philistine into his hands.

Acting *apart* from the Lord, David would have been powerless. He would have easily been defeated and slain by the Philistine. But, *acting by faith*, David could *only be victorious*; *acting by faith*, David *easily defeated the Philistine champion.*

*David slew Goliath.*  But it could also be said that *the Lord slew Goliath*. It is the same principle seen in the actions of the two angels in [Genesis 18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18&t=NKJV); [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19&t=NKJV). *Acting under fixed laws*, the actions of these angels were seen as *the Lord’s actions*; and *acting by faith*, David’s actions were seen as *the Lord’s actions*.

Thus, comparing these accounts in Genesis, Numbers, Joshua, and 1 Samuel, *acting by faith can only be seen as acting under a fixed divine law that cannot change.*

**From Faith to Faith**

“Faith” is simply *believing that which God has to say about a matter*. And, in the realm of *faith* and *works*, *acting by faith* is *not acting* in a realm where one seeks to go out to *do a work for the Lord*. Rather, *acting by faith is completely stepping aside from one’s own self and allowing the Lord to do a work through the one exercising faith*. And the work done *through* the one exercising faith will be the Lord’s work; it will be a *work emanating* out of faith and performed in the spiritual realm, *completely apart from the man of flesh*.

The Christians’ works tried at the judgment seat will fall into two categories, described by “*gold, silver, precious stones*” and “*wood, hay, stubble*” ([1 Corinthians 3:12ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+3.12ff&t=NKJV)).

The former works (described by “*gold, silver, precious stones*”) will *emanate out of faith* and *will be works that the Lord performed through the individual*. These works will *endure the testing through fire, for they will be the Lord’s works*.

The latter works (described by “*wood, hay, stubble*”), on the other hand, will be those *performed separate from faith, by the individual himself, through the energy of the flesh*. The Lord will have had *nothing to do with them*, and they will be *burned by the fire*.

The Christian life is one where two things must be operable throughout: “grace” and “faith.”

“Grace” can be defined as *that which God is able to do entirely apart from human intervention*.

And “faith,” as previously stated, is simply *believing that which God has to say about a matter*.

If one *moves* *outside* the realm of “grace,” he moves *outside* the realm where God can be *active* in his life, for God always *acts in the realm of grace*; and if one *moves outside* the realm of “faith,” he moves *outside* the realm where he *can be acceptable to God*, or where God *can be pleased with his actions* ([Hebrews 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.6&t=NKJV)).

As previously shown, both “grace” and “faith” are seen operable *not only* in the salvation that we *presently* possess ([Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-9&t=NKJV)) but also in the salvation of the *soul*, the *present* and *future aspects* of *salvation* ([1 Peter 1:2ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.2ff&t=NKJV)). Thus, it should be a simple matter to see and understand that “grace” and “faith” must *always be operable at any point in the overall salvation message — past, present, or future*. Man *has been* *saved* by grace through faith; man is *being saved* by grace through faith; and man is *about to be saved* by grace through faith.

But, since *man’s works cannot* enter into the realm where *God’s grace exists*, *how* can grace and works *co-exist* in connection with the *saving of the soul* in [James 2:14ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.14ff&t=NKJV)? Note [Romans 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.6&t=NKJV):

*And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.*

It is *man’s works that cannot enter* ([Ephesians 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8&t=NKJV)), *not God’s works*. And *God’s works must always enter into the matter*.

(Note: *Salvation by grace* we [the saved] *presently* possess. This salvation is a divine work [the Spirit moving, God speaking, light coming into existence], which is based on *another divine work* — Christ’s finished work at Calvary. And since a *continuing* work of grace is also involved in the *continuing* aspect of salvation [the salvation of the *soul*], *God’s works, not those of man, must likewise be seen throughout*.)

[Romans 4:1-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+4.1-4&t=NKJV) clearly reveals that *works emanating from the flesh*, *from man* ([Romans 4:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+4.1-2&t=NKJV)) *cannot* enter into the realm of either “faith” ([Romans 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+4.3&t=NKJV)) or “grace” ([Romans 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+4.4&t=NKJV)). The works *must* be *God’s works being performed through an individual exercising* “*faith*,” as in [James 2:21-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.21-24&t=NKJV) and [Hebrews 11:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.17&t=NKJV). And since they *are God’s works, “grace” can enter into the matter*; and since they are *works being done through man, “judgment” on the basis of works can occur*.

The whole of the matter surrounding *faith and works* is that simple to understand.

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Book: [Faith and Works (SOS)](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php#Faith%20and%20Works%20(SOS)), App. 1, [Salvation of the Soul](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php), by Arlen Chitwood, in this site.

Also see [Holy Spirit – Ministries and Filling!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Holy%20Spirit%20%E2%80%93%20Ministries%20and%20Filling!) in this site.