

# YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER

James 2:14–26

The hot and blazing brand of the Protestant Reformation could be stated in three words: *justification by faith*. Martin Luther was the passionate “blacksmith” who forged it with his hammer of conviction on the anvil of Paul’s letter to the Romans. Since that day, Christians have taken their stand with him on the principle that salvation is a faith-plus-nothing transaction. Especially helpful in heating the fire under this theological “brand” are such scriptural statements as Ephesians 2:8–9; 2 Timothy 1:9; and Titus 3:5 (please read). But the section we’re considering today in James *seems to suggest a contradiction!* We need to discover what it says as well as what it does not say. As we do, we also need to see how it fits into the all-important theme of justification by faith and also understand why it is so important for us to remember today. This section of James is the message in a nutshell of his entire letter.

## I. Initial Clarification: *What about the faith vs. works issue?*

*Paul’s Message*

*James’ Message*

## II. Expositional Study: *What kind of faith saves?*

- Crucial questions (v. 14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Characteristics of saving faith (vv. 15–20)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Examples of saving faith (vv. 21–25)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Foundational principle (v. 26)