

JAMES AND PAUL ON FAITH AND WORKS / *James 2:14*

James and Paul each meant something different in using the words *faith* and *works*. Each of them was responding to a different need.

	James	Paul
Faith	Concerned with the danger of “dead faith”—he knew that shallow beliefs would never stand up to the trials believers would face in life. People will claim faith, but an unsubstantiated claim will be only empty words (see James 2:14).	Concerned with the exercise of “true faith” or saving faith—this faith not only opens the door for grace, but leads to obedient action (see Ephesians 2:8-10).
Works	Claiming works are the natural product of faith that is alive, he emphasized the post-salvation results of the life of faith. This is very similar to Ephesians 2:8-10.	Called “works” those legalistic efforts to secure one’s own salvation—any attempt at self-justification. For Paul, the beginning of salvation was always faith. After that, works followed (see Galatians 3:2).