



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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## **FAITH: MISUSED OR ABUSED**

FAITH is one of the most misused, abused, distorted, and misunderstood term in the Bible. Theologians of the cults and reversionistic sects gave faith a distorted meaning to support their teachings. In this study, we are going to rediscover the real meaning of faith. You are about to encounter the genuine biblical faith and at the same time, refuting the demonic and human viewpoint of faith. Biblical faith comes from the veracity and immutability of the Word of god while the distorted faith comes from the man-made religious teaching.

The Greek noun "*pistis*" translated in English as faith has dual meaning. First in the objective sense, *pistis* means what is believed that is referring to the whole system of Bible doctrine. Secondly: *pistis* refers to the believer's application of Bible doctrine to his daily life experience.

Faith by itself cannot function as a virtue. Faith and hope are subordinate system that functions within the sphere of the love complex. Love is superior to either faith or hope because love is the characteristic virtue of the entire divine sphere.

Faith represents an entire system of applying the word of God, while hope is a system derived from knowledge of Bible doctrine stored and residing in the soul. HOPE is absolute confidence in future divine provisions and blessings [Romans 8:24-25]. The believer can apply doctrine and advance from the hope of blessing in time to hope of blessing in eternity but only inside the sphere of God.

In English Bible, Hebrews 11:1 is commonly mistaken for a definition of faith, but where *pistis* was used in its passive sense, what is believed the object of faith, that is Bible doctrine. Hebrews 11:1 is actually a definition of hope. Bible doctrine reveals the plan of God. Under His plan, He glorifies Himself by blessing us. He can bless us only because of a series of imputations, which create a potential for blessing. Both hope and faith are part of confidence toward God, as a virtue, we must remember that the standard of virtue is His divine essence, and not the relative systems of human morality and ethics.

Faith apart from Bible doctrine is pure presumptuous faith. Faith as a subordinate virtue cannot function by itself. Faith is not founded on what we can believe or our sincere conviction that are inspired by old sin nature. True faith is founded by what is believed that is, Bible doctrine.

Here is a corrected translation of Hebrews 11:1-2: Now, Bible doctrine is the reality from which we keep receiving the hope, the proof of matters not being seen. For by it, (Bible doctrine in the soul) men of old gained approval (when they reached spiritual maturity).

By faith (by means of Bible doctrine resident and functional in the souls) we understand by faith (by means of Bible doctrine resident and functional in his soul) Abel offered a better sacrifice (Hebrews 12:3-4).

In each case of Hebrews chapter 11, Bible doctrine made the difference, because **without faith (Bible doctrine in the soul) it is impossible to please God** (Hebrews 12:6). It converted each one's potential into hope, and that hope gave him confidence which led him to spiritual maturity and beyond. Each person expressed his maturity in the various courses of action recorded in this honor roll.

Seeking God is the determined, steady and regular academically disciplined, and diligent (self-motivated with spiritual concentration) intake of the Word of God. We cannot separate faith, and hope from Bible doctrine. Faith apart and depart from the Word of God is not the biblical concept of faith. We cannot separate faith and hope from love because it is the primary virtue of the divine sphere. Faith apart from Bible doctrine is not faith.

God did not thwart our volition in salvation; otherwise, He would destroy His plan of grace. He would cancel the purpose of salvation that each person might choose to have a personal relationship with Him. God does everything for man to have salvation, except make the decision for us. Positive volition is the only missing link, the only factor needed to complete our reconciliation with God. Though we are born totally detestable to God, a single decision of non-meritorious faith in Christ closes the gap and establishes us as God's children (John 1:11-12).

The objective of faith for the unbelievers is not to make them pleasing, approvable, or acceptable before God but to receive the free gift of salvation by believing Christ alone could save us. The faith we utilized to receive salvation is non-meritorious and has no power to save the soul.

God's plan of grace is based on God's integrity, not on any merit in the human race. God loves us because of WHO AND WHAT HE IS, because of the provisions he has made, because of the cross that fulfilled the perfect demands of His righteousness. That is grace. After salvation the justice of God remains the source of our blessings, making us the beneficiaries of God's plan of grace.

We are always under grace, as we were saved by grace (not by our own faith) of God, and we are always under the grace of God as objects of God's personal love (Ephesians 2:8-9). We are saved by grace through faith, not by faith.

At the moment of faith alone in Christ alone, God permanently imputes His absolute righteousness to every believer, eliminating any need to earn God's approbation with human good or human self-righteousness. We live the Christian way of life by following God's mandates, not by striving to fulfill our own legalistic ideas of what ought to please God. No human merit can earn God's love or blessing after salvation.

The phrase ***The upward call of God*** refers to the ministry of the Holy Spirit at the instant a person first believes in Christ (Philippians 3:13-14). Every human being is born spiritually dead; we have a spiritually dead understanding of God, and spiritually dead faith to believe in Christ. We are unable to comprehend spiritual things and totally incapable of a relationship with God. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is vital, first, to make the Gospel clear, and second, to make our faith in Christ effective for salvation. In itself, our presumptuous faith (striving to please God) has no power to save us.

The Holy Spirit must take our faith and make it effectual in establishing an eternal relationship with God (John 16:8-11). We receive no credit or merit for believing in Christ. All glory belongs to God and to Him alone. We are saved exclusively by the power of God. The upward call is designated COMMON GRACE, extended to all individual, while the ministry of the Holy Spirit is converting the believer's faith into salvation is called the EFFICACIOUS GRACE. In every case where common grace is not followed by faith in Christ, efficacious grace does not occur. The faith of the unbelievers is spiritually dead faith, and the faith of the carnal believers is operationally dead or temporarily dead.

Both faiths are useless (James 2:17-20). Faith in salvation is non-meritorious in the same way, faith after salvation is also non-meritorious. Man has nothing to boast concerning his faith.

The justice of God imputes the logistical grace to the righteousness of God to every believer (Psalm 23:1, Matthew 6:26), on the basis of equal privilege and equal opportunity to enable them to grow and mature spiritually. Every believer received the love complex but only few utilize its power. Many Christians today fail to progress beyond salvation. They are unable to utilize the grace and power of God (2 Peter 3:18). They are too involved and too busy in various church programs but without spiritual growth. Involvement in church's activities is not spiritual growth but religious involvement.

The logistical grace includes the provision for the believer to advance and reach spiritual maturity. It is composed of four interrelated blessings: life support, temporal support, security provisions and spiritual provisions. The so-called

prayer of faith of pseudo men of faith is always petition made under the grace provision. Praying for things that God has already included in His provision. Those who ask for great material things from God prove only that they are not men of faith. The Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles and disciples did not ask God for such things.

Logistical blessing is provision for all believers. No prayer, petition or faith is required to receive such blessing. Prayer in relation to logistical grace is for the purpose of thanksgiving and gratitude not to demand or request (see tracts nos. 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81). Prayer has become a major cultic practice among the evangelical churches.

The Lord Jesus did not use His faith to ask the Father any of such provision. The Humanity of Christ did not use His faith to heal or to make miracles. His purpose on earth was not to be known as miracle worker, or man of faith. His ministry was fourfold:

- Proclamation of the Gospel
- Preaching of Bible doctrine
- Prophecy concerning the Church Age
- Presentation of His Messianic credentials

There were only 20 cases of healing recorded in 4 gospels, 5 of which are repetition. There were only 7 persons whom Jesus delivered from demon possession and there were only 9 miracles associated with Christ.

The Church Age believers are mandated to remain on the defense line against the Devil and his demons (Ephesians 6:11). We are taking offense against old sinful nature (OSN) and against the cosmic systems by growing in grace and in knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Defensive action is the only way to prevent defeat by Satan (James 4:6-7), but offensive is the only way to win the battle. Submission to God is our offensive action. Resisting the devil is our defensive action (1 Peter 5:8-9), by our daily and progressive study of Bible doctrine (Ephesians 6:10-17). The battleground for the spiritual life is the soul. When the armor of God is in place, the soul is protected from the assaults of Satan.

Where the defensive wall crumbles, the soul is left exposed to satanic darts and missiles. The battle is between divine viewpoint and satanic viewpoint, thought against thought, mental attitude against mental attitude. We do not win such battle by driving away or casting out evil spirits.

We can win the spiritual warfare only through the power of God in our lives, as we are controlled and energized by the Holy Spirit and empowered by the Word of God (the epignosis in the soul). We have the victory; we are winners if only we

are not going to surrender before the battle starts. Faith (Bible doctrine in the souls) is the victory (1 John 5:4).

Never do we earn or deserve any credit in the entire plan and system of God. His entire plan is alive with grace not with human achievement. The imperfect man cannot and will have no meritorious role in God's perfect plan. Man has 3 basic means of perception:

Rationalism relies on human reason and logical consistency as the criterion for reality, totally apart from authority and revelation of the Scripture. In rationalism man engages his intellect, deducing a logical system to explain reality.

Empiricism establishes reality based on the experience of the senses because reality is what you see, hear, smell, taste and feel. In empiricism man hones his powers of observation for discovering answers in the world and the universe around him. Faith is reality based on confidence in the authority and veracity of God. Faith, the non-meritorious system of thinking comprehends infinite spiritual truths that are beyond the finite mind reasoning powers and sensory system. In faith the credit does not belong to the subject but to the object. Not to the one who believes but to what is believed. After salvation, we must live by grace. Grace includes all human merits. Faith remains the only means of perceiving and applying Bible doctrine.

God has provided everything we need for learning God's Word. They are called grace provisions for the saints to understand doctrine through spiritual IQ not human IQ. Human IQ is an index number indicating degree of human intelligence and is the result of meritorious perception. Spiritual IQ is created by the filling of the Holy Spirit, related to the amount of Bible doctrine stored as epignosis in the right lobe of the soul (Colossians 1:9), it is the result of non-meritorious faith perception. Believers have the ability to learn Bible doctrine apart from human IQ since it is not a factor for learning doctrine.

The mentality of the soul has two lobes. The left lobe is the home of gnosis that is academic knowledge of the Scripture. The right lobe is the repository of epignosis which is full knowledge. Gnosis is receptive comprehension, the academic knowledge that is not usable for application in life. It is non-edifying. The application of gnosis doctrine is reversion of the Bible doctrine where true doctrine may generate pride, legalism, inflexibility, inconsiderateness, narrow-mindedness and compounding superiority.

Epignosis is designed for application as wisdom and spiritual common sense in the spiritual life and it is made available for application unlike gnosis, which is not applicable for any application. This is the reason why the reversionists are very good in humanistic viewpoint and cosmic reasoning. Reversionists are believers who have no spiritual IQ and epignosis. Filling of the Holy Spirit and positive volition are equally essential in faith perception, otherwise, the Holy Spirit cannot

convert and transfer gnosis from the left lobe to the right lobe to become epignosis.

Our objective is saturation of biblical truth but there is no way to accelerate the process other than its gradual gathering and storing it in the right lobe. The positive volition believer develops a frame of reference for receiving and retaining more doctrine necessary to build up the epignosis. Because doctrinal truth builds upon truth, we must persist in learning precept upon precept, line upon line (Isaiah 28:10). The Lord Jesus Christ is the Author (archegos), He is the Cause and Source of all things refers to Christ as the ONE who brings our epignosis into completion. He cannot bring to completion the religious doctrines in your souls, but only the Bible doctrine. Hebrews 12:2a refers to the work of God in providing, nurturing and bringing into completion His plan for our lives. But God cannot do anything without the cooperation of our free will (volition) to grow.

The believer must have the **desire** (positive mental attitude) to grow and advance to maturity. He must enforce his desire with **decision** (acts upon his positive volition) to reach his goal or objective. His decisions must show **determination** (perseverance to carry out his positive volition) in the midst of trials, testing and suffering. To his growing determination, he must attach military **discipline** (the concentrated focus that resists any distraction) not to allow anything or anybody to hinder his spiritual growth and momentum. The most extra-ordinary faith is not one that raises dead people from the grave but one that is willing to learn Bible doctrine regardless of situation and conditions.

Once a person believes in Christ, his salvation in Christ is permanent, secured and cannot be canceled by anything he thinks, does or says. Salvation is the non-reversible work of God. No sin, decision or action can destroy the believer's eternal security, not even his renunciation of faith (2 Timothy 2:11-13). At the point of salvation God imputes His absolute righteousness to every believer and declares him righteous or justified (Romans 3:21-28). If God will exclude any one from eternal salvation who possessed his imputed righteousness, He would have to deny His own righteousness and justice, because He contradicts His own pronouncement of justification. Our salvation is strong as the essence of God. Between the point of salvation and reaching spiritual maturity, every believer is the beneficiary of logistical blessings unconditionally provided regardless of spiritual standing before God, and without the necessity of faith or anything from man.

At the point of spiritual maturity, the believer continues to receive logistical blessings plus the blessing in time simply because the believer received the imputed righteousness from the justice of God. It is the only basis for all subsequent blessings. The real issue is our adjustment to the justice of God not our faith. Our vital contact point with God is our spiritual adjustment to His justice-not our non-meritorious faith. In some cases, the faith of the so-called men of faith is not only non-meritorious but also notorious.

God blesses us only because of Christ who indwells us meets His perfect standard and because His righteousness is in us. God will never bless us for what we do or what we do not do, not for who and what we are, but for who what God is.

God is blessing you not because of your brilliant personality, not because of your enthusiasm in the work of the church, not because of your marvelous abilities, talents and spiritual gifts. God is blessing you because you possess the principle of His integrity, His divine righteousness. The justice of God is free to bless only divine righteousness wherever it may be found (Romans 8:31, 5:16-17).

If the basis for salvation is human faith then, nobody is going to heaven. If the basis for blessing mankind is our faith, then nobody will ever receive anything from God because our faith is always wavering, unstable, imperfect, and blemished with old sin nature, which God cannot accept by any means. God cannot throw away His absolute integrity (His perfect righteousness and justice) and lower Himself to the level of imperfect man by accepting our imperfect faith.

*Faithful is the Word: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we persevere (living in the will, plan and purpose of God), we will rule with Him (as recipient of eternal blessing) if we deny Him (reject divine will to mature) He will deny us (withhold eternal rewards because we are loser). If we are faithless (living in carnality) He remains faithful (divine essence), for He cannot deny Himself (His perfect immutability and veracity [2 Timothy 2:11-13]).*

The real issue here is not about your GREAT FAITH but about GREAT GOD. Our salvation is eternally secured because of God's essence of immutability and veracity. The Lord Jesus Christ guarantees our salvation because he earned it for us and deserved all the merits for it.

**HOW TO INCREASE YOUR FAITH** The humanity of Christ encountered two persons with great faith. The first was a woman (Matthew 15:28), and a centurion (Luke 7:9). In several occasions He scolded His disciples for their little faith or lack of faith (Matthew 14:31, 16:8, 17:20, 21:21 and Luke 12:28).

**GREAT FAITH** is not an excellent measure of faith but the capacity to believe the Truth they heard. Believer, like Stephen who was described as a man FULL OF FAITH refers to Bible doctrine stored in his soul available for utilization at any situations may require. Great faith is not mystical and exclusive to few (like the TV preachers around us) who claimed to have special anointing from God.

**LITTLE FAITH** refers to gnosis that failed conversion and transfer into epignosis in the right lobe of the soul. It is academic faith that will soon fade away lacking capacity for recall and application. Christians with weak faith are doctrinally

ignorant and unable to resist temptation and open to any compromise (Romans 4:19).

TO GROW STRONG IN FAITH requires the positive volition to leave behind the weak faith of carnality and concentrate in studying Bible doctrine diligently, systematically, and progressively avoiding every intermission and barrier that diverts the focus of the soul from Christ. That decision to grow spiritually and reach spiritual maturity begins with an act of positive volition (Romans 4:20).

TO INCREASE OUR FAITH is to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ by means of continuous and progressive learning of Bible doctrine. No amount of prayer and fasting can increase our faith (2 Peter 3:18). Like the lowly mustard seed, our faith must germinate, grow its roots downward before it can bear fruits upward (Luke 17:5-6). No amount of prayer and fasting, miracles, healing, tongues, and exorcism can add a millimeter to our faith.

The people surrounding the life of Christ and the apostles had enough miracles and yet remained unconverted. THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH is a statement that describes the normal lifestyle of the Christians inside the plan, purpose and will of God. The Word of God possesses such believers and whose principles and viewpoint are dominantly from the Bible doctrine (Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11). Only the genuine and accurate Bible doctrine in the souls can produce changes in the believers and historical impact in the world.

RIGHTEOUS MEN (believers with positive volition) became strong in their faith gradually being energized by the Holy Spirit as they move slowly toward spiritual maturity by the grace of God. They utilize the power of the divine dynasphere. They refused to leave the divine dynasphere and refusing Satan's enticement to leave even for a while (Ephesians 3:16, 19).

The righteous are concerned about having the fullness of God which comes by knowing God not by working for God. We come to know God by living within the system in which Jesus Christ lived while on earth. That power system is the divine dynasphere of blessedness (John 1:16).

Only inside the divine dynassphere we can think His thoughts and develop the same mental attitude that govern His life (1 Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:5). His inner dynamics becomes our inner dynamic. His virtues become our virtues. His capacity for life becomes our capacity for life. His happiness becomes our happiness. His integrity becomes our integrity (John 15:11, 16:13-15).

FAITH does not believe without proof of God's essence. To believe God is to know Him, His purpose, His plan, operation and systems. Faith that is ignorant of God's essence is presumptuous faith. Faith is not trusting a creature or putting your confidence on man. True confidence is based on God's essence. A misdirected faith toward man, is not faith but compromise with evil schemes.



Faith is not claiming biblical promise and urging God to fulfill it, without knowing His plan and purpose. It is easy to say, I believe that God will do it without the confidence on God. Faith is not human capacity coated with our selfishness and arrogance in demanding His divine intervention for something entirely impossible to settle or resolved. Faith is the divine action of His righteousness and justice. It is not demanding something for our needs and problems.

Faith is not what you make to believe or what you like to believe but what is believed (Hebrews 12:2c). Your faith has no reality without Bible doctrine in your souls. It is not possible to have faith without Bible doctrine. This distinguishes the genuine Christian faith from the faith of other religious groups. The justice of God provided all Church Age believers with equal privileges and equal opportunity to reach spiritual maturity. The measure of faith is the results of individualized volition to use or not to use divine resources.

Only faith (doctrine) can establish the spiritual life of the believer individually and collectively (Acts 16:5). No amount of spiritual messages or spiritual music, tongues, and others can make you grow and move toward spiritual maturity. Your faith can grow exceedingly or remain stagnant depending on your study of the Word (2 Thessalonians 1:3, James 2:18-17).

THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH (1 Timothy 6:12) refers to the battle the Church Age believers have to face while advancing toward spiritual maturity. The battle is about volitional responsibility to study or not to study Bible doctrine not fighting demons. Our presumptuous faith is powerless against Satan and his demons. TO DEPART FROM FAITH (1 Timothy 4:1b) is to reject Bible doctrine and to accept the doctrines of demons. To ere from the faith or to wander from the faith is to fill your mind with human viewpoint or satanic viewpoint (1 Timothy 6:10b). The spiritual battlefield where each one of us is assigned to fight is the soul, not the planet earth, for this reason our soul must be possessed with the maximum Bible doctrine or epignosis.

The spiritual warfare that we have to win is right within our soul- not in some ghostly houses or temple of demons. There is no command for the believers to expel demons from this planet. We cannot bully Satan with gnosis doctrine in our nous. Memorized Scriptural text has no effect on Satan-he has memorized it better than any creatures. The truth we learned will establish real convictions and belief. The principles we gained will guide our conduct in the world. The truth will set us free from human viewpoint and demonic doctrines.

Epignosis are permanently stored in the soul, preserved for eternity. If however, remain unused- the Holy Spirit will ask for refresher course that may include preventive suffering. There is no spiritual maturity without the application of epignosis to life.

Faith-rest relies on the infinite power, energy and resources of God. It is God's gracious, matchless, endless provision for believers in time. It is a moment-by-moment Sabbath. Without rest, there is no spiritual power, strength and spiritual capacity to serve God. There is absolutely nothing in the spiritual life without this moment-by-moment rest. It will be a spiritual life without the wonderful shower of blessings and manifestation of His power.

The faith-rest life is characterized by continuous, perpetual faith that believes the promises of God (Hebrews 4:10). It is signified by diligence in seeking life that is not operating by the energy of the flesh (Hebrews 4:11).

The faith-rest life is characterized by knowing the Word of God, the will of God for man. The believer who is applying faith rest is allowing the Word of God to inspect his mind, heart and soul. He is willing to take constant examination (testing) by giving the Word of God freedom to judge his thought and life (Hebrews 4:12-13). The faith-rest life is characterized by being a witness to the world regarding the wonderful grace of God. It is becoming a showcase of divine grace in the world of chasm and chaos (Hebrews 4:12).

It is characterized by series of testing of undeserved suffering, which demands continual trust or confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is life that is learning to depend on God in every area of his life. It is a life that trusts on nobody except God. It is a life that is totally independent from men and totally dependent on God alone (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Faith-rest is something we do not earn, we do not deserve, and we do not have the right but because of God's grace, it is possible. Faith-rest is not an exercise we do in times of crisis or problem, but moment-by-moment exercise. Faith-rest is like a water reservoir that you fill during the rainy days and use during the dry seasons. There are three stages of faith-rest exercises:

Phase 1: Claim a Biblical promise. The believer stands on the veracity of God's Word, giving life to the Bible doctrine stored and resident in the soul (Romans 8:28). The soul of the believer refuses the harassment of the human viewpoint and overcome the attacking fear by depending on the Bible doctrine.

Phase 2: Apply a doctrinal rationale. The believer recalls doctrinal truths to form logical premises, on the basis of God's essence and character (Romans 8:29-30). The believer draws specific truth from his frame of reference of Bible doctrine applies it on that specific situation. The confidence of the believer based on divine essence overcomes all the lies of demonic doctrines and human viewpoints. The believer is focused on the truth of God's Word and on His perfect essence refusing every distraction that might come.

Foreknowledge: God thought about you in the eternity past.

Predestination: God designed a plan for you in the eternity past.

Election: God chose you for the privileged part of His plan.

Justification: God can bless you because you possess His righteousness

Glorification: God can bless you forever in heaven.

Phase 3: Reach a doctrinal conclusion and take control of the situation (Romans 8:32-32). *If God is for us, who can be against us? If God gave us His Son, He will also give us all things.*

THE Christian's key to faith-rest is the appropriation of God's grace by faith and the utilization of divine problem-solving devices.

WAITING UPON THE LORD is synonym with faith-rest. To wait is to continue trusting God until He restores your human strength with divine strength. THE subject of faith is one of the most misinterpreted term in the Bible and the most abused among the religious. It has different meaning from religion to religion. The main elements in FAITH (PISTIS-pistis) in its relation to the invisible God as distinct from human faith are especially brought out in the use of this Greek noun and corresponding and verb PISTEUO (pisteo) are:

A firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation

A personal surrender to God

A conduct inspired by such surrender

All this stands in contrast to belief in its purely natural exercise, which consists of an opinion held without necessary reference to its proof. The object of Abraham's faith was not on God's promise (that was the occasion of its reference) but rested on God Who made the promise (Romans 4:17-21).

Faith is non-meritorious and has no power of its own. The power is on God the object of our faith. Faith for example does not rest on the wooden cross-used by Christ, not on the dead person but on the Living Person (Romans 3:25).

LITTLE FAITH, literally little of faith (OLIGOPISTOS-oligopistos) is used only by the Lord as a tender rebuke for anxiety of those who refused to accept and believe Him.

GENUINE FAITH has 4 elements:

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ

A doctrinal knowledge of God

Conviction based on knowledge

Manifestation of that conviction

A DEAD FAITH is purely academic knowledge of God, religious not biblical in context and without reality. Dead faith is futile and handicap to bring the reality of salvation (James 2:14). Dead faith is not faith at all.

A MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY WORKS, AND NOT BY FAITH ALONE refers to several doctrinal truths (James 2:24).

Paul in his epistle to Romans had in mind Abraham's attitude toward God-his acceptance of God's Word. Paul used the event in Abraham's life recorded in Genesis 15, James that in Genesis 22. Paul focused on "BELIEVED" (Genesis 15:6) and James on "OBEYED" (Genesis 22:18).

Paul was dealing with genuine faith while James was talking about dead faith (James 2:14, 17, 20), that kind of faith that cannot save. For Paul, faith is the acceptance of God's Word (the whole doctrine), with James it is the acceptance of the truth (certain statements about God), which may fail to affect one's conduct. With Paul results in acceptance with God, that is justification.

With Paul, works are dead works (human good works). With James they are life works (divine good works). With regards to justification, Paul is occupied with right relationship with God, James with right conduct. Paul testifies that the ungodly can be justified by faith; James testifies that only the doer of God's Word is justified. To dispute that salvation is by faith plus works and use the words of James is very appropriate for some cults because they already warranted their condemnation to hell. The faith of James cannot save anyone unless it shows it works.