

FAITH WITH WORKS

By

ART MOKAROW

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Written by Art Mokarow

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FAITH WITH WORKS

PREFACE

Martin Luther brought the Christianity of his day to a crisis. Luther insisted “faith” alone, without works, was all that was required for salvation. The Apostle James, Jesus’ brother, clearly stated “faith without works” is dead. He declared he would prove his own **faith** by his “**works**” (James 2:17).

What did James really mean by “faith with works?” Was it a way to obtain salvation? This book addresses that subject. Biblically, *The Bible*, is very clear about “the works with faith” which is necessary to be saved. Discover God’s truth regarding faith and works. You will find it is the essence for salvation.

No monies are ever accepted but your comments or any questions are welcomed. Also, request your free CD containing all eleven books which you can read on your computer.

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CHAPTER 1

TWO CHOICES

What was it that caused Adam and Eve to be cut off from The Tree of Life? God clearly reveals the answer when He mandates it is “SIN” which cuts mankind from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Sin is the culprit. The question is how does God get rid of sin?

SIN ENTERED

When Adam and Eve ate of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil “**sin**” entered paradise. God, at this point, cut them off from The Tree of Life (paradise). “Sin” literally cut off access to God. To restore The Tree of Life, with God’s presence, He had to completely eradicate sin.

Since God is creating a family just as He is, this “**plan**” has to include **free choice**. God has free choice and He wants His children to have free choice (I John 2:3). God’s **plan** created humans who are temporal and in the end will die. The choice was and is to choose one or the other. You have the choice whether you want to **live** or you want to **die**.

God gives **life** as a gift of grace (Romans 11:6). God’s plan includes giving “**eternal life**” freely without humans having to do any work. Only faith or trust in God can make you righteous and Holy (Ephesians 1:4). All humanity has to do is have **faith** in God that He **can** and **will do it** for you. The question is what does God have to do to give you The Tree of Life or **salvation**?

GOD'S PROMISE

God made an astounding statement in reference to Israel, when He **declared** He brings forth or produces children. He will always bring the birth to maturity (Isaiah 66:9). Wow! God never aborts. He always brings a birth to completion.

Paul said the same thing to Timothy. God intends to have **all** men **saved**. Everyone will finally come to the knowledge of **the truth** (I Timothy 2:4). But, with **free choice**, how does God make it happen? **Sin** is the cause of death (Romans 6:23). God must get rid of death, so sin can be destroyed. Until sin is destroyed, the gift of eternal life cannot be given.

BY CHRIST

Who exactly gets rid of sin and how? Paul said Christ, The Anointed Savior, is the **way to life** (John 10:9). “**For he [Jesus] must reign, till He hath put all [God’s] enemies under His feet** (I Corinthians 15:25). What enemy? “**The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death**” (I Corinthians 15:26). To get rid of death, sin must be destroyed. So, **biblically** you must find what **causes** sin.

PAUL'S ANSWER

Since Adam and Eve sinned, humanity has been a mixture of **good** and **evil**. There is your free choice! Humans must choose one or the other – not both. But how? Paul tells you: Once converted, a Christian battles between good and evil. What is “**good**” when humanity **repents**? Paul states, “**For I delight in the law of God after the inward man [but in this flesh]. I see another Law in my members [flesh] warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members [makes me sin]**” (Romans 7:22-

23). It is the body, your flesh, that makes you sin. Why? Because you are temporal, “survival of the fittest” rates supreme. Because when you’re about to die, your struggle is to do whatever you can to survive. This includes reproduction, needing food and protection from harm or death. It is a great struggle just to stay alive. The process of survival is what motivates you to stay alive. You have an innate desire to do everything you possibly can to survive.

Humans, themselves, are God’s enemy, being “**all too human.**” Humans are weak because they are of the **flesh**, and the flesh sins (Matthew 26:41). To overcome **sin**, the flesh or the process of just being human, must be destroyed. Once you are no longer human, only then, will Jesus destroy sin which has been mankind’s downfall. Jesus will destroy sin as mankind’s enemy. Then, death will no longer exist. Christ’s job is to destroy death and **save** everyone (I Corinthians 15:26).

TWO WAYS

How does Jesus rid you of the flesh which causes you to sin? The flesh, being human, profits nothing (John 6:63). That is why Jesus said, “**And if thy [your] right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee [you,] for it is profitable for thee that one of your members [human] should perish, and not that thy [your] whole body should be cast into hell**” (Matthew 5:29).

You have two choices. You must cast out whatever causes you to sin. If you do not, you give Christ no other choice but to have your entire human body destroyed in The Lake of Fire or hell.

If you can overcome sin within your human body, your body will not be destroyed in The Lake of Fire. This is why Jesus said, “**For whosoever will save his life shall lose it [burn in hell] and whosoever will**

lose his life for my sake shall find [save] it” (Matthew 16:25). There are your two choices. Matthew spells out you must be willing, of your own free will, to give up your life in this life, as Jesus did. If you will, you do not have to give up your life in The Lake of Fire.

When it comes to “**sin**,” your enemy is your human body. Until your body is destroyed and you are given a **spiritual body**, you will continue to sin and reap the penalty of death. Jesus and His Father, God, allows you these choices. It is all a matter of **free choice**. You either willingly sacrifice your own human life – your body – now, “in this life” or in The Lake of Fire. On the other hand, you will have the **free choice** to **sacrifice** your body in The Lake of Fire at the time of The White Throne Judgment.

WHICH IS HARDER?

Some say they will accept their human life as is – as they live their normal life. They figure they will worry about “hell” down the road, if indeed there is a “hell.” It is your **free choice** as God has decreed. The real question is which is more difficult? *The Bible* gives you a stern warning. If you wait to give up your life later in “hell,” you will then have to endure great **torment**.

The choice seems rather clear. The one wanting to live this life now and accept the consequence later doesn’t make logical sense. Why? If one proves, eventually, that hell is real, then they are in **deep** trouble. But if you find, by giving up this mortal life, that there is no hell, you will also find you have still lived a very good, prosperous life. But, for the one who doesn’t care about a future hell and finds he or she is wrong, then it is too late and that person will end up having lost the game. The one giving up this life never loses; that person wins now and also wins later. Either way you look at it, giving up their life makes them win; in this life, they live a decent life because they follow good,

solid, wise rules by trying not to sin. The one who doesn't care, not only loses in this life, because of sin, but also goes to hell in the end by facing The White Throne Judgment. Frankly this is pretty plain. The **winner** is the one who gives up this life. So which one has the more painful path, and which one has the better life?

LAW AND FAITH

The keeping of The Law of God promises a prosperous, healthy, safe life. Read all of Deuteronomy 28. Obviously, if you don't kill or steal, you will never have to go to jail. You remain free to pursue your personal interests. It is quite clear; keeping God's Law keeps you free from becoming a criminal. No question about it, it is the wisest choice for you to make.

Sinning, or breaking The Law, since that is what sin is, makes no sense because one is never free and is always in bondage of one sort or another. However, receiving **eternal life** is another matter. Jesus said to be in God's **kingdom** you have to be more righteous than the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:20). To be in God's **kingdom**, or being a **saved** Christian, you have to be even more righteous than what The Law demands of you. How righteous does a Christian have to be? The answer is that "**All unrighteousness is sin**" (I John 5:17)! To be in God's **kingdom** you must be perfect or totally without sin (Matthew 5:48). Wow! How can anyone become sinless?

FAITH AND LAW

Some say **faith**, or just believing, is a lot easier as far as trying to be a Christian than having to keep The Letter of The Law. Can that be true? You know The Law tells you what sin is (I John 3:4). Those who say "**faith saves**" and all one has to do is "**believe**" think that way is a lot easier to accomplish.

The Bible reveals there are those who have kept The Law, as Zacharias (John, The Baptist's Father) and his wife. They kept the **commandments** and **ordinances** blamelessly (Luke 1:6). The Apostle Paul also said the same thing about himself in Philippians 3:6. The rich man kept the **commandments** as well (Matthew 19:17-20). Of course, Jesus, Himself kept The Law, but **without sin**. Zacharias and his wife, along with Paul and the rich man, being very human, did indeed sin. However, they were blameless because when they sinned all they had to do was offer a sacrifice and their sins were covered. Humans can keep The Letter of The Law, but they do sin and then have a way of being considered blameless by offering a sacrifice. Keeping The Law was a way individuals could have a better human life with good health, prosperity, safety and long life, but remember, no salvation. When Christ came, your sacrifice was no longer needed. How about faith; is it really easier to have **faith** than to keep The Law? You can find out!

CHAPTER 2

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

James, Christ's brother, clearly stated, "Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). The question is, "what kind of works?" The word in Greek for "works" is "*ergon*." "*Ergon*" conveys "human effort" or "deeds." In fact, in many places in *The New Testament*, the Greek word, "*ergon*" is translated "deed." Faith, without the right kind of "deeds" or "works," leads to death. You, as Christians, need to know biblically what types of works produce true faith. Since faith, by grace, saves you, then these works cannot be your effort to be righteous or perfect like God. Whatever these works are, they prove your faith (James 2:18). *Faith and works are tied together.*

Amazingly, both The Apostle Paul and James warned about this very same thing. Paul considers the question of "**faith**" and "**works**" as two of the basic doctrines required for the full understanding of Jesus' teachings. Paul said you should **leave** the **principles** of the doctrine or teachings of Christ and go on to perfection. He states **one** of Christ's **basic principles** is the foundation of repentance from **dead works**. Then Paul combines this principle with Christ's principles of **faith** towards God. **Faith** and **works** together is a very basic **spiritual** teaching to understand the true Jesus (Hebrews 6:1). What is obvious from James and Paul is that one can have **faith** and can still face **death**. Faith without "**works**" is not real **faith**. Notice what James had to say about Satan.

James declared that Christians believe there is **one God** and in believing it to be true, they do well; but remember **the devils** also believe and tremble (James 2:19). Having belief or **faith** alone in God is not enough. Believing only, (**without works** or deeds) will not give you **salvation**. It is a dead **faith** or a belief that leads you only to death. **“Works” must** be combined with **faith**. What kind of **works** do you need to have, to have a Godly **faith**?

FAITHFUL WORKS

Paul defines the meaning of real **faith** in (Hebrews 11:1). **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence [proof] of things not seen.”** Amazingly, **faith** by itself is not real faith. But, **faith** can be proved. To prove it, you need to understand what Paul is attempting to teach you about **faith**.

In Greek, the word “faith” is *“pistas”* or *“pistis.”* Its root conveys “the idea of persuasion.” A “persuasion” can comprise one’s belief; however, how real is **one’s faith** or **persuasion**? You can believe something to be true but may not necessarily live up to that belief. Faith needs to be tested to determine the validity of that belief. Faith can be proved. A Christian either truly accepts his or her faith or merely believes without proof or works.

Paul goes on to complete the meaning of real **faith**. He states that **faith** needs **substance**. Without **substance** in your faith, there is no hope because the **evidence** will be lacking. Your faith in this case has no **proof**. Substance is the essence of faith (Hebrews 11:1). “Substance” in Greek conveys “one having a **foundation** or **reality** to grow in **faith**.” “Substance” is “something **real**.” One may ask what “substance” is faith composed of? Without substance, there is no **faith**! Works or deeds prove what constitutes your faith. Faith, therefore, without **“works”** is **dead faith**! This is a basic Christian teaching according to Paul. How

many, however, really understand that **faith** is a “**reality**” only if it has **works**? If your **faith** has no substance, you end up dying. Now you can understand the meaning of real faith and you must proceed **bibli-cally** to understand what “**work**” and “**deeds**” both Paul and James are talking about.

RIGHTEOUS ABRAHAM

Notice what made Abraham righteous. God said that Abraham kept all God’s **commandments, ordinances** and **charges** (Genesis 26:5). Abraham kept The Law but none of Abraham’s righteousness in keeping The Law made him “**righteous.**” And, Abraham’s **works** of keeping God’s **commandments** did not make Abraham righteous. What did? What kind of “**works**” or “**deeds**” did Abraham do to make himself **righteous** in God’s sight? Abraham was justified by **works** when he offered Isaac, his son, upon the altar (James 1:21).

James said Abraham wrought with his **works** – that by works – **faith** that was **perfect** or **complete**. What kind of works? Not by keeping the **works** of The Law but by offering Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham’s **faith** was made perfect by obeying and trusting God. Then, he proved his faith by the willingness to give his son as a sacrifice.

Abraham’s **faith** had great **substance**. Abraham had proven by giving evidence that he indeed believed God, even when he was prepared to offer his own son. That is “**faith**” with **works**. This kind of **faith** is **real**; it is not the “**righteousness**” Abraham obtained by keeping The Law. One can keep God’s **commandments** and still be faithless. One has to do with doing what is “**right,**” and the other believes God by “**works.**” Salvation is all about **faith** and not how righteous you might be. Does that mean you can willingly sin? Of course not! One has to do what is “**right,**” which is “**good,**” but **faith** has to do with “**works**” and trusting God. This is “**faith**” with “**works.**” That is why James

reveals Abraham believed God and that is what made Abraham righteous. That is **faith** with **WORKS** (James 2:23)!

WHAT ABRAHAM THOUGHT

Many of you, when relating to Abraham and his test of faith by works, probably thought Abraham was in great **stress** when offering Isaac. One would believe when he told Isaac that they were going to Mount Moriah to make an offering to God that Abraham was “beside himself.” Most fathers would be. A test generally relates to something which is difficult. Naturally, Abraham’s **test**, as he told Isaac to lie down on the sacrificial altar with the knife ready to kill him, was horrendous. You can imagine Abraham saying, “Help me, God.” This would certainly be a very human reaction. But, what was Abraham thinking when he was about to **plunge** the sacrificial knife into Isaac? You will be astonished when you read **biblically** what Abraham was thinking! Paul divulges Abraham’s thoughts when he proceeded to sacrifice his only legal son, Isaac. God had promised that through this son all nations would be blessed. Then Paul said, “**Accounting** [believing] **that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure** [Christ]” (Hebrews 11:19). Wow! What **faith**. This is truly **faith** or **trust** in God. This work of faith had substance and was proved by Abraham’s works. This was a **living** faith. Abraham’s keeping of God’s Law did not make Abraham “**righteous**,” but **faith** with **works** did.

BEING FAITHLESS

In God’s eyes, being faithful is far more than believing God is real. Faithlessness is a **lack** of implicitly **trusting** everything God reveals. Man must live by (doing) **every “word” of God**. You can be like Job, keeping God’s Laws perfectly, and still lack faith. What was Job’s problem? He didn’t trust God. He wanted his day in court because he

felt he was perfect in all his ways (Job 1:1). But, how good or righteous one is, doesn't give a person **salvation**. Being righteous can give a good, prosperous life, but it won't save you. Salvation, which is a gift, is dependent on your faith or **complete trust** in God, The Father!

Believing in God and being righteous can still find you **faithless**! King David was a man after God's own heart. How did David prove he had a heart like God? The most obvious example is when David slew Goliath. Everyone was fearful to fight Goliath, except David. Why wasn't David afraid? Because David trusted God absolutely, with **works of faith** (I Samuel 17).

King David was not as **righteous** as Job, as David's sins are revealed in *The Bible*. Everyone knows David committed sin with Bathsheba and allowed her husband to be killed. The real lesson, after David sinned, was his **works of faith** when he **repented**. Even as a sinner, King David did not waiver in his absolute **faith** or **trust** in God. Read about David's **works of faith** after He **repented** (II Samuel 12:13).

David's faith and his right heart are **biblically** revealed, even more so than the slaying of Goliath. In this act, David committed two horrendous sins. He was guilty of adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed. Because David immediately **repented**, God spared David's life. Then God issued three penalties because of David's sins. Because David had Uriah killed in war, he would never have peace during his entire life. David would be at war for the rest of his life; he was to be a Man of War.

God's second punishment was allowing David's wives to be raped. Thirdly, the very son born to David by Bathsheba would not live. These penalties David had to bear because of his act of adultery and causing the death of Bathsheba's husband. Now, notice David's **faith** with **works**. As Nathan, The Prophet, said when the child was born that God would strike the child with illness and the child would die. David

immediately started a fast and lay all night upon the earth. His servants tried to get him up from the ground, but he would not eat. David was in hell for his sins and he paid dearly for those sins. The child finally died but his servants were afraid to tell him. David discerned their fear and he asked them, “**Is the child dead**” (II Samuel 12:19)? They said “yes.” Notice that “**faith**” by “**works**” was being manifested.

David immediately cleaned himself and went to eat. He broke the fast, but why? His servants asked, “Why do you now eat since the child is dead?” Here is David’s answer: “**But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast?**” [God did as promised and David believed God]. “**Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me**” (II Samuel 12:23). Read all of II Samuel 12 for the complete account. This was King David’s **faith with works**. David believed God allowed the child to die. David believed God meant what He said.

DAVID AND ABRAHAM

David showed **faith with works** by stopping his fast when his son died. Why? Because God told David his son would die and King David believed God with “**works**.” David ended his fast when his son died. Abraham, also believed God with works; he was willing to kill his son Isaac because he knew God could resurrect him. For both men, David and Abraham, it was a matter of “**faith with works**.” This is true **substance**, or the reality of **proving faith with works**. Which is more difficult?

Having **faith with works** proves one’s **faith** is real, or felt in a person’s **heart**. Faith is a time of human testing. It can be a time of great **torment** and **pain** for the person being tried, like David. Also, it can be a time of reality, as with Abraham, but **without torment**. That is why Abraham is the **father of the faithful**.

Both David and Abraham were **faithful**. Although David was faithful, he was in torment by the magnitude of his sins. Abraham was not in torment because his works were superior in **faith**. All humans go through the same tests whether for their sins or to prove their **faith** without sin. Either way you are being tested in Godly “**faith**.” It takes real **faith** with **works**.

LAW IS EASIER THAN FAITH

Keeping The Law, (not stealing or murdering) keeps you **free** from The Law. You will not have to go to jail in any worldly **court**. With God’s Law, and including man’s Law, you remain **free** by sticking to or keeping The Law.

Faith requires a far greater demand upon human nature than physically keeping Laws. Keeping Laws allows you to be free. Being **faithful** keeps you from **mental torment**; **as it** can lead to all types of stress which in turn leads to illness and then finally to death. **Faith with works** proves your faith as a **living** faith, and you are thereby free of sin – by living every **word of God faithfully!** “**Faith**” then gives you **salvation!**

CHAPTER 3

TWO FIRES

God destroys sin in one of two ways. In this human existence, God tests you by using Satan as your “tempter” and “accuser.” God tempts no one (James 1:13). The Apostle Peter states judgment must begin with the “household” of God (I Peter 4:17). Paul calls this judgment period a time of *sacrifice* (Romans 12:1). You, as a Christian, are to be willing to sacrifice yourself just like Jesus did. Why? It is all about *love*. Christ said that no man has greater LOVE than to lay down His life for his friends (John 15:13). Jesus showed His love for you. Now, as a Christian, you are to be an exact WITNESS of Christ. You are to sacrifice your life, which manifests Christ “in you” or manifests God’s “love.” Peter calls this Christian human existence “a fiery trial.” The choice becomes simple. You either go through this fiery trial in your present life, or you literally go through the FIRE in The White Throne Judgment. The free choice is yours!

ISRAEL’S REJECTION

God chose Israel as His people to be a witness to the world. God also allowed Satan to tempt them. At Mount Sinai, Israel sinned against God when they built the golden calf. God said they had a wrong heart and lacked the **faith** to go into **the promised land**, so He sent them into the **wilderness** to fend for themselves. This was Israel’s test. Read the whole *Book of Numbers*.

Moses took them into the wilderness, and The Israelites constantly complained about God. They desired to go back to Egypt. God was grieved with them because they had no faith or trust in their **Father**. They failed every test, and God said “**that** generation” would not be allowed to enter God’s “**rest**” or The Land of Palestine. All that generation died for their lack of faith (Hebrews 3:5-12). Their fiery trial was too much for them in the life they were living at that time. They were not willing to sacrifice themselves and show **faith** in God. In Christ’s day, the people also lacked faith; Judah rejected Jesus and His sacrifice. Christ, as God’s Son, also grieved for Israel because of their lack of **faith** (Matthew 23:37).

CHURCH OF GOD

Once Israel lacked faith and rejected Christ, God called “**a new people**.” Peter declared that God now accepts people from all **nations**. Those people, of course, have to **fear** Him and do **works of righteousness** (Acts 10:34-35). God, as everyone’s Father and Creator, expects His children to follow His guidelines. It was at the time of Peter’s **vision** that God accepted those who repent in their hearts and minds and who seek Him and His ways of righteousness, as **His people**. Now, however, they must offer their bodies as a living sacrifice. Israel offered to cover their sins by sacrificing animals, but that kind of sacrifice was only a shadow. The shadow was a type of what was a real sacrifice – one’s life. God has two groups who are to be His **witness** to the world: Israel as a nation (all twelve tribes) and those Gentiles who call upon God as The Church of God. In *The Bible*, these are two churches – Israel as The Church in The Wilderness and The Church of God, the elected Gentiles. These are God’s **two witnesses** in *The Book of Revelation*. Ask for the book *Revelation Uncovered* for more details. Both of these congregations or **churches** must be tried and tested as to their faith and willingness to trust God, even to the point of being sacrificed.

These acts of love demonstrate God's people going through **their fiery trial** here on earth.

FIRE – NUMBER ONE

Israel AND **the Christian world** have their **time of judgment**, now, **in this life** (I Peter 4:17). Peter calls this a fiery trial (I Peter 4:12). For those being called to God's way of life **now**, you must go through your human existence much like a **fiery test**. This is the first fiery trial, and it's called "a living sacrifice" by The Apostle Paul (Romans 12:1). This sacrifice of offering yourself willingly is your time of having a test of **faith**. You are being **tested** while **alive**, while you live this life that has been allotted to you. That is why Paul called it a **living sacrifice**. You do it out of your free choice, which is having **faith** in God and trusting God to deliver you from this fire. Indeed, to do this, you are forgoing the life of this world, which is having one foot in "sin" and occasionally the other foot in "righteousness."

Paul said this "**living sacrifice**" is acceptable by God. Why? Because Jesus was that "**acceptable sacrifice**" by The Father (Hebrews 10:4-14). If you as a Christian are willingly giving your life to be sacrificed, just like Jesus, then God accepts your "**fiery trial**" while living this life. This is Christ "**in you**" (Colossians 1:27). Then you are emulating Jesus and will be accepted of The Father.

FIRE – NUMBER TWO

If you decide not to be a "**living sacrifice**" or just live "this world's life," then you are perhaps unknowingly choosing The Lake of Fire. What happens in The Lake of Fire? You will be refined as gold just as Jesus told The Laodicean Church (Revelation 3:18). If Christians do not choose to sacrifice this present life, then they, with the rest of the world, must go into the second fire, The Lake of Fire. Request *The*

White Throne Judgment so you can find exactly how this takes place. So, there are two fires – one as a Christian, a living sacrifice in this life, or as a sacrifice in the analogy of being a goat in The Lake of Fire. The choice is yours.

WHY A FIRE?

God requires you to be perfect to receive **salvation** (Matthew 5:48). Why? You either become a living sacrifice in this life, as going through a fiery test, or you are thrown into The Lake of Fire at the end. Jesus reveals that fire will refine you as **gold**. Paul states **fire** can **save** you from **false teachings**. God uses **fire** as a **system** of **purifying** (I Corinthians 3:13-15). But you may ask why God uses fire?

Simply because God Himself is a consuming **fire** (Hebrews 12:29). It is what God is! God is a **burning spirit**. You will appear just like God – as a **spiritual, flaming fire** – when you finally receive salvation (I John 3:2). Fire is what God is, and that is why you must sacrifice yourself in a fiery trial. You must **lose** this life and become like God.

Read the story in Daniel 3 about Daniel's three friends: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These friends of Daniel were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to **bow down** to an **idol** that looked like **the king**. Amazingly, when the three of them were in the fire, they **did not burn**. An angel, looking like The Son of Man, protected them. Why didn't they burn? Their **faith** proved their works, and they were counted as **righteous** so there was no **sin** to **burn**. Fire purifies, but as Paul said, "**If any man's work [faith] abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward**" (I Corinthians 3:14). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego proved their work by their deed of **faith** and therefore received their **reward of life!** There was no sin to burn!

GOD IS FIRE

God, being a **consuming fire**, burns anything that is combustible (Hebrews 12:29). Paul says that anything that is corruptible or can die or decay by fire or death cannot receive **salvation** (I Corinthians 15:50). To be **saved** you must become **incorruptible**. As long as you are human and combustible, you cannot achieve **salvation**. You must become just like God and His Son, or be as He is (I John 3:2). Are you starting to understand why **the work of faith** is to be a **fiery trial**? Anything which is consumable by **fire** must be destroyed. You must become non-combustible or **spirit** like God. When you are spirit you then are like God, a consuming fire.

This is why God uses gold, silver and precious jewels as elements; they are not consumed in fire as wood, hay and stubble are (I Corinthians 3). The gold, silver and precious stones are refined, or become better, as true teachings of God's "**word**" opposed to the fake doctrines, which can be burned. You can only live forever when you become completely **spirit** which cannot **burn**. Then you will be just like God and Jesus, without sin.

CHAPTER 4

UNBLEMISHED SACRIFICE

The Old Covenant sacrifices had to be unblemished or perfect (Numbers 29:36). These sacrifices of the lamb were a picture of Jesus (I Peter 1:19). The Hebrew for “blemished” is “*tamiym*,” meaning “perfect.” It is exactly what Christ was and what you are to become (Matthew 5:48). How does God make you perfect?

To have absolute **faith** under all human conditions, you must prove your **works** by **trust in God**; that is your only answer. Your fiery trial in this life requires accepting whatever God decides is best for you. Too many times you believe it is your religious works, such as going to church, giving money, or some other human deed which does nothing to change your behavior or human nature. Not that you shouldn't do these works, but that is not what makes you perfect.

IDOLS

All of you are subject to idolatry. Request the book *Discovering God* for details. You normally think of idolatry as some object or idol that you bow down to and worship. Idolatry, in God's eyes, carries a much greater definition. Paul tells how you, as a **living sacrifice**, can put to death your life. “**Mortify [kill] therefore your members [human life] which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness which is Idolatry**” (Colossians 3:5). There is your **biblical** definition, which you can depend on. Idolatry is anything you want in this life more than God.

This could mean when you place family, cars, fame, money, prestige, well-being or any human desire, above the importance of God, those wants or desires become “**idolatry**.” You then have another “**god**” in place of The True God who should be above all and above everything. Why? Because only God Almighty has **life** to give and He is the only one who knows how you can be holy and perfect like Him. This is **true faith** with **substance**. That is a living faith of sacrifice. Then, God gives you His love and you are to love Him above all else (I John 4:8).

LOVE AND TORMENT

Your “love” is made perfect so you may have boldness in The Day of Judgment. As God is, so are you in **the world** (I John 4:17). Because God loves you and you love Him, even to the point of becoming a **living sacrifice**, you then have no **fear**. You will not have to go into The Lake of Fire (I John 4:18).

The word “fear” in Greek is “**phobas**.” Medically speaking today, you might refer to “fear” as a “phobia.” A “phobia” is fearing what is not real. Some have a phobia of heights or being enclosed in a room. It is **fear** of what is not **real**. It could be a fantasy. Paul states God will never test your **faith** above what you can take. He will always give you a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13). Your human bodies and human lives are not real. They are vanity and vanity dies. It is like a passing wind; it is over before you know it.

A second point for you to understand is that God is not the one who tempts you. It is Satan, your adversary, who does the tempting (James 1:13-14). The only time you are tempted is by your own lust or idolatry. You start to covet and desire what you humanly want more than God. This is a lack of faith. It is faith (belief) without works – a dead faith. Being unblemished as a living sacrifice requires your faith to be tested.

Why? When you, by free choice change your nature, God knows it is a test of faith. And this test can cause fear and stress in your life. At these times, you need to pray to God for help.

FAITHLESS FAITH

When God allows you to be tempted by Satan, you then prove or disprove whether your faith is real and has substance. How can you know? When you, as a Christian, are tested and are confronted with grievous stress and torment, you know your faith is lacking substance.

“Fear” or “*phobia*” is a **false faith**. Remember, a phobia is like when a person is fearful of being locked in a dark room, but that individual is not injured or killed. You, by your fears, have fictitiously caused yourself to be in abject stress. In reality, nothing has happened to you. An individual with this “phobia” believes or has **faith** that their life is in jeopardy and does not know it is not a “**reality**.” If you have faith like Abraham, you know you are safe because God is your Savior. If you have that confidence, without having any doubt, that “phobia” or “anxiety” disappears. That is **faith with works**. By constant prayer, fasting and studying and humbling yourself, seeking God’s help, He will not allow you to be tested more than you can bear. Once God directly intervenes, when you totally rely upon Him, He will give you a reprieve. Once you give up your idol, whatever it is, in your lifetime only peace will follow.

Paul said when your test or chastening is over, “**It yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness**” (Hebrews 12:11). You have offered your life as a living sacrifice. God accepts your sacrifice for all your doubts and fears. God then gives you forgiveness and because of your **works of faith**, He counts you as one of the **righteous**.

It is not how good you are, although you must hate to sin, but how **faithful** to God you are and how you live every Word of God (Matthew 4:4). God accepts that sacrifice and accordingly counts you as an unblemished lamb.

CHAPTER 5

THE FRUIT OF FAITH

You have seen “with faith” your love for God grows which makes you perfect. Faith builds love because you trust your Father and He acknowledges your work of faith. Then there is no fear in love (I John 4:18). In fact, perfect love or complete love, casts out fear. There are no more false fears or doubts. Faith with works proves your love and the reliance you have on God.

Like Abraham, most humans who would be asked to sacrifice their only child would be **filled** with **fear**. Your mind would be in turmoil and racing to find another solution. You would be in a state of **total stress**. Not Abraham; he knew God would only show His love, by resurrecting Isaac if need be. Abraham knew God’s ways and trusted God completely. Abraham had no fear or stress.

Fear has torment. A lack of faith in God will result in torment. It is exactly what happens to those who are thrown into The Lake of Fire. Now you begin to understand what torment is about. In Greek, “torment” is “*kolasis*,” or “overwhelming.” Fear of this magnitude can create such stress and anxiety that there are no options for a reprieve or any relief – only a state of fear or phobia, which makes the mind imagine the worst possible penalty or outcome. But, when your faith in God is tested, you can either be as Abraham, the father of the faithful, or literally be filled with anxiety and fear. A lack of the works or proof of your **faith** manifests itself as torment. This is exactly what occurs to those thrown into The Lake of Fire. They didn’t have **faith** in God as their Father. Not only did they doubt God but because they had a

wrong heart, they could not give up their “**idols**” – they lacked faith. God requires **faith with works** or substance. Your **faith** must be **real** and **not merely a belief**. The fruit or the result of **faith with works** produces absolute **trust** in God; then and only then **is your faith made perfect**, and you will have no fear.

SALVATION

Salvation as a **gift of grace** from God will only be given in relationship to your faith; it must be absolute. To receive salvation, God must know by your free choice you choose God faithfully. **The gift of life eternal** can be good or evil. Righteousness – perfection or being holy, without blemish – can only be given by God. Only God can make you righteous by His Son, Jesus.

If you lack total **trust** in God and do not believe Him under all circumstances, then you can decide to be less than perfect as Satan did. Having **eternal life** without being holy and **righteous** can produce a **kingdom** of unhappiness and chaos. This gift of life can be granted only if God sees that you trust Him first and foremost; trust is required to guarantee paradise and an eternity of bliss, not only for you but for everyone. Nothing less can truly be God’s **rest** in His **kingdom**.

Faith with works is the decision you need to make, and then God promises He will not prove you above what you are able to bear. Believing God will not allow you to fail if you continue in faith or trust in Him. God will not ask more of you than you can take, but even this requires a **work of faith**.

HUMAN WORKS

Now you see that being **righteous** by **human effort** is far less difficult than having **faith with works**. Human works do not require a change

of your very nature. To not steal or not commit murder or lust for your neighbor's goods is far easier than actually changing your heart and mind, which takes a miracle.

To change how you think is far more difficult than not being a criminal. Job did not understand this vital truth about faith. As perfect as Job was, he still had the wrong nature. The very fact that he wanted to be in God's court showed a lack of faith on Job's part. He finally understood that **only God** can change what you are. When Job finally became aware of his self-righteousness and his carnal efforts, he truly repented. Job finally confessed it was only God who can do **all things**. Some doubt God can save everyone. God warned these people he can save everyone (Isaiah 59:1-2). His hand is not too short to save. "**God's works**" is to **save everyone** by and through His Son (I Timothy 2:4). It is God's "will" and He can do it. Job finally believed "**in faith**" and repented. You need to choose to do the same thing.

HOW WILL GOD CHANGE YOU?

Now you understand what **faith with works** really is. It's trusting God under all conditions and being willing to sacrifice yourself and your very human life whenever God reveals His "works" or "plan" to you. When you understand God's "**will**" by His "**word**," you either, in faith, believe Him, as Abraham did, and do what God asks, regardless of the "**loss**" **you may have**. You must be willing to give up your personal idols or lust, knowing in faith that you will be blessed for it.

Once you have spiritually grown in God's faith with works, you find the result will be internal peace of mind or God's rest. God will do the work (Hebrews 12:11). **The fruit of faith with works is peace**. Once you trust God implicitly, you will find yourself in God's rest. Once you rest in Christ, stress and fear disappear. Then, this perfect **love** will cast out fear (I John 4:18). Fear or torment is replaced by **faith** in God,

because His love casts out all fear. Fear is gone because in reality you completely rely on God and then God becomes “**all**” and is “**in all**.” How great and loving is God! With proven **faith** you now look forward to the resurrection of life. Read how this makes you perfect and Holy in **the resurrection** (Ephesians 1).

GOD DESTROYS SIN

You have found God does not reveal Himself to or hear anyone who sins or is a sinner (Isaiah 59:1-2). For you to be with God, and for God to be with you, sin must be destroyed. You have read that the last enemy to be destroyed by Christ is death (I Corinthians 15:26). Because the wages of sin is death, then sin, as God has said, must be destroyed (Romans 6:23). Once sin is gone, death is no more. What has to die for sin to vanish? Paul gives the answer when he says, “**O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the Body of this Death?**” (Romans 7:24). There it is, plainly stated in *The Bible*. It is your human bodies that must be destroyed for sin to disappear.

Once your body no longer exists, sin is gone. It is your body that causes sin because when you are trying to survive, the body, in turn, can cause the “**evil**.” That is why Jesus said the flesh or body profits nothing. Once you have perfect love, which is total **faith** in God, then you are willing to sacrifice your life, then you receive life. Christ said **flesh is flesh and spirit is spirit**. Then Jesus related, “**That which is born of the flesh [body] is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.**” The two – flesh and **spirit** – are completely different (John 3:6).

Christ declared that you must be born again or you cannot enter God’s **kingdom** (John 3:3). The Apostle Paul said the same thing in I Corinthians 15:50. How does God destroy sin? God, through Christ, resurrects you. **THAT’S HOW!** But, you are raised incorruptible (spirit)

and this **mortal (body)** must put on immortality (I Corinthians 15:53). Your **faith with works** proves your total and complete **trust** in your Father; and you, as Abraham, are counted “**righteous.**” Because you have total **faith** in God, you receive the **gift of grace** or **eternal life.** Then you will look exactly like Christ and God, Your Father (I John 3:2). Then, God will be “**all and in all**” (I Corinthians 15:28)!