

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Are We Saved By Faith Or Good Works?

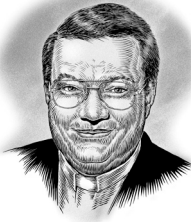
Know This...

Most of us want to spend eternity with God. St. Paul said, "God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth." Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection made possible our eternal salvation; yet, we are not guaranteed heaven. Then how are we saved? We are not saved by faith alone. We are not saved by good works alone. We are saved by grace alone! Grace brings us to faith in Jesus Christ and moves us to do works that fulfill God's will for us.



**John:** Only grace can turn us toward God and away from sin. If we die in a state of grace, we are saved from eternal damnation in hell and will enter heaven.

**James:** God lavishes His grace on us to produce two equal responses. First, faith. Second, good works. Faith and good works are not in opposition to each other; they flow from each other.



**John:** Jesus wasn't passive in His earthly ministry and neither were the Apostles. So why would God call us to a passive role in our salvation. He wouldn't.

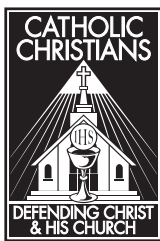
**James:** Salvation isn't a one-time, past event. It's an ongoing process that ultimately happens in the future.

**John:** Jesus did not teach "Once saved, always saved." This is a human doctrine that the Bible doesn't support.

**James:** We must die with Him in order to live with Him. If we deny Him by our words and actions, He will deny us at our final judgment.

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Our salvation demands more than just faith. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." <sup>Mt. 7:21</sup> "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps. Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." <sup>Lk. 9:23-24</sup> We must abandon everything for God. "You will be hated by all because of My name; but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved." <sup>Mk. 13:13</sup>

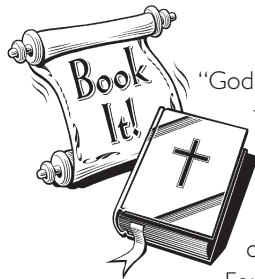
## PAPA SAYS

St. Peter said of Jesus. "Although you have not seen Him you love Him; even though you do not see Him now yet believe in Him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy as you attain the goal of faith, the salvation of your souls." <sup>1 Pet. 1:8-9</sup> "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to men by which we are to be saved." <sup>Acts 4:12</sup> "We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus." <sup>Acts 15:11</sup>



## BE ATTITUDES

"Nothing seems tiresome or painful when you are working for a Master who pays well; who rewards even a cup of cold water given for love of Him." <sup>St. Dominic Savio</sup> "Three things are necessary for the salvation of man: to know what he ought to believe; to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do." <sup>St. Thomas Aquinas</sup>



"God will render to every man according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life." <sup>Rom 2:6-7</sup> "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advanced, that we should live in them." <sup>Eph 2:8-10</sup> "Man is justified by works and not by faith alone." <sup>Jas 2:24</sup> "You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love." <sup>Gal 5:4-6</sup>

Jesus, You are the Savior of the world. Your passion, death, and resurrection opened the gates to heaven. Without You, I am helpless. My faith alone and my works alone will not get me into heaven; but a loving and faithful response to Your grace will. Open me to Your grace that I might abandon everything for You and follow You in poverty and humility. I pray that I will persevere to the end in keeping Your commandments and living Your Beatitudes. I ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

