

## STEERING BETWEEN FAITH AND WORKS

Ephesians 2:8-10  
Pastor Alan Dionson  
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### INTRO:

1. The **design** of the Ephesian letter
2. The **division** of the Ephesian letter

### A. PRESENTED WITH **SALVATION**

1. Salvation by **grace** (v. 8a)
2. Salvation through **faith** (v. 8b)
3. Salvation not by **works** (v. 9)

### B. PREPARED FOR **SERVICE**

1. We are **created** by God (v. 10a)
2. We are **partnered** with Christ (v. 10b)
3. We are **shaped** for good works (v. 10c)

### CONCLUSION

S- **Story**

H-**Heart**

A-**Abilities**

P-**Personality**

E-**Experiences**

# Table Talk

## Overview

The Book of James is commonly thought to have been written by Jesus' half-brother, James. Many believe he was writing to Jewish Christians. James wrote this letter to correct any misunderstandings about the nature of faith. James began with a greeting, then quickly transitioned into an encouragement to stay faithful through trials and sufferings. Afterward, he wasted no time moving straight into his teaching on faith. James agreed with the writer of Romans, who confirms that faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

1. Think of a friend who had a goal, but consistently chose things that hindered them from reaching that goal. What seemed to stand between their desire and taking action to reach the goal?

2. How has your faith brought out good deeds in your life?

3. Read James 1:19–21.

\* James 1:19 reminds us to listen before we speak. Share about a time when you learned the importance of this valuable lesson.

4. Read James 1:22–25.

\* What are some common excuses people give for hearing God's Word, but not doing it?

\* Have you experienced gaining wisdom because you obeyed God's Word? How?

5. Read James 1:26–27.

\* Why do you think James addressed taming the tongue in this passage that speaks mostly on faith?

\* Has your tongue ever stood in the way of your obedience?

6. Read James 2:14–20.

\* Have you met people who seem to rely on their work as the basis for their salvation? What makes them believe that?

7. Read James 2:21–26.

\* Who in your life is a good example of someone who is both strong in faith and actions? How do they combine the two?

\* How can reflecting on good examples of faith and works benefit a Christian's personal walk with Jesus?