**Scriptures (NIV)**

***Romans 1:16-17*** 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

***Romans 3:28*** 28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

***James 2:14, 17b-18, 24*** 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 17b faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

***Ephesians 2:8-10*** 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

***Ephesians 4:11-12*** 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

***Faith & Works: Rivals or Allies?***



Paul was counteracting legalistic Judaizers and focused on faith rather than works as the only means of salvation. Paul refers to genuine saving faith. Luther faced similar problems in medieval Catholic theology, so he aligned primarily with Paul.

James was counteracting false and empty “faith” (“quietist intellectual assent”) and focused on works as a necessary indicator of saving faith. James refers to a false “faith alone” that cannot save. Wesley faced similar problems in his day, so he aligned primarily with James.

“O it is a living, busy active mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good things incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done this, and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such works, however, is an unbeliever. He gropes and looks around for faith and good works, but knows neither what faith is nor what good works are. Yet he talks and talks, with many words, about faith and good works.”

- Martin Luther (Preface to Romans)