

Things That Go Together – or Not

Fill in the blanks to complete the things that “go together.”

Peanut butter and _____

Shoes and _____

Macaroni and _____

Batman and _____

Cinderella and _____

Bow and _____

Barbie and _____

Spaghetti and _____

Black and _____



Some things just naturally go together. In the Bible, in James 2:14, the apostle Paul gives us another pair of things that are supposed to go together.

Faith and Good Works

Faith is what we believe in, even if we can't see it – like God.

Good works are what we do with our faith to help others. You might participate in a mission project or help at church. You might cook food to take to hungry people. You might look for people in your community to help. God's love causes us to care about others. And we need both faith and work together to really make a difference in our lives and other people's lives. God expects us to show our faith in him by working out his love to others.

The next part of the Bible passage referenced above asks an important question about what happens if we use only part of the faith/good works pair. In James 2:15 we're asked, "Suppose you see somebody with no clothes and say 'Have a good day, keep warm' but give them no clothes. What good does that do?" Sometimes we try to help solve other people's problems but don't really look to God for understanding. Try this.

- Find a partner and a roll of toilet paper
- Try to make your partner some new clothes using only toilet paper
- When you have done your best, let your partner try to make YOU some clothes.

How did that work? Do you think your hard work really helped someone get the clothes they needed. Without praying and trusting God to help us find the best solutions to problems, our hard work may not accomplish what we hope it would. Other examples of mismatched faith and actions could be

- Consoling someone who is hurt or sad without praying for them
- Encouraging your friend to do better on a test without helping them study

We need to remember that our ability to do good works is a result of our faithful belief that Jesus has saved us by grace, not because we can do good things!