

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 2:21-26

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Salvation, By Faith or Works?” - Part 2

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text vv. 21-26

This Message has Startled A Lot of People

and if it startles you into making sure you belong to Christ
then I have been as a compass that points to the truth and you're better

Summation of The Text

Going to Extremes seems be a Human weakness. We all struggle in this in some area of our lives. The Extreme Regarding this teaching is to think that just believing is enough. Or to think that being as good as you possibly can will result in you qualifying for Heaven

Attempts at Salvation

The keeping of the Law will eventually lead to salvation.
Or Saying you have Faith based upon a past event

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Both of these 'extremes' miss the truth

A man is not saved by doing good nor is a man saved by looking back to
some act or action

Whenever the gospel is preached to the unconverted there are certain truths
that cannot be left out of the message

#1

Every Human being must change their understanding about who Jesus is. - the biblical
word used is a nautical term known as **"Repent"**

#2

Every person who is Repentful is called upon to put their full weight upon Jesus, this
is to **"Believe"**

#3

Every person who has repented, (*that is to have changed course*), and Believes, (*that is to
put your full weight upon Christ*) **will be saved!**

Mark 1:14b-15

...Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is
fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

If Repentance is not Preached - The Conviction of Sin will
not Come and without the conviction of Sin - You'll never
See Your Personal Need of the Savior

- You can come to Christ - for a moral decision
- You can come to Christ - for a social purpose
- You can come to Christ - personal interest

But Until You Come to Christ

as a person guilty of having done wrong, owning that wrong, and calling out Jesus to
save you from the wrong that you have done - personally...

you will be the best, nicest, and most moral person in Hell - lost in eternity

The Church at large is being plagued by its own message these days. It's a
message that is warm and inviting, convenient and easy, even Politically Correct But -
Theologically, it's as Incorrect as any other false way that has come along

I Call It: “Easy-Believe-ism”

“If you just raise your hand or just come forward you’ll be saved”

But raising your hand(s) will not save you
nor can coming forward save you

(Verse 20)

But do you want to know, O foolish man,
that faith without works is dead?

“But do you want to know?”

There are grave doubts in James’ heart,
over the fact that his listeners don’t really care at all about the issue,
they’re thinking the message is for the other guy...

1.) What We Say must Agree With What we Do vv. 14

What does it **profit**, my brethren, if someone **says**
he has faith but does not have **works**? Can faith **save** him?

1a.) What we say must **profit** how we live - profession
What does it **profit**

1b.) There will be no works to prove their profession
But does not have **works**? Can faith **save** him?

1c.) Such Faith is No Faith at All - it Accomplishes Nothing
Can faith **save** him?

2.) How We Live in Practice Tells All vv. 15-16

2a.) True Faith Serves its Brothers and Sisters
If a **brother** or **sister**

2b.) When we Meet the Needs of the Local Body
If a brother or sister is **naked** and **destitute** of daily food

2c.) Our Response Reveals the Depth to Our Profession

And one of you **says** to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not **give** them the things which are needed for the body, what does it **profit**?

3.) Real Faith is as a Compass toward the Christian

v. 17-20

3a.) Only Works can Make my Faith Visible

But someone will **say**, "You have **faith**, and I have **works**."

Show me your faith without your works, and I will **show** you my faith by my **works**.

3b.) Be careful to Make Sure that you Really Trust in Christ

You **believe** that there is one God. You do well.

Even the demons **believe--** and **tremble!**

“Salvation, is it By Faith or by Works?”

True **Salvation** comes through Faith in Christ Jesus.

Faith that is Genuine is a Faith that is **Working**

It's Our New Nature

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should **walk in them.** (THE WORKS)

“Salvation, is it By Faith or by Works?”

1.) The Illustration of Abraham's Saving Faith

vv. 21-23

2.) The Illustration of Saving Faith Itself

vv. 24

3.) The Illustration of Rahab's Saving Faith

vv. 25

4.) The Illustration of Dead, Lost Faith ?

vv. 26

Faith without works is dead

1.) The Illustration of Abraham's Saving Faith

vv. 21-23

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

1a.) The Act of Offering Isaac

vv. 21

Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

In Genesis 15

Abraham was Pronounced "Righteous"

Genesis 15:6

And he **believed** in the LORD, and He **accounted** it to him for righteousness.

"Believed"

It's the first time the word appears in scripture

- 40 years before he ever offered up Isaac on the Alter
- 14 years before commission was introduced
- 100's of years before the Law ever came to Moses

His Believing Resulted in Redemption

In fact, the first Jew that ever was, was first a gentile

Faith & Works

Romans 4:1-5

~~~~~ 40 years before the Offering ever Happened ~~~~~

What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. <sup>5</sup> But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

## Justification is Twofold justification before God is by Faith justification before men is by Works

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision that profits you, but faith working through love.

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; <sup>29</sup> but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

## It was a Fiery Trial for Abraham

The genesis account

**Most Scholars Believe that Isaac became an Idol in Abraham's Life**

### **IT WAS A TEST**

Genesis 22:1-10

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> And He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. <sup>5</sup> And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. <sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. <sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But **the Angel of the LORD** called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went

and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of the place, THE-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided." <sup>15</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup> "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son-- <sup>17</sup> "blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**"

## Faith Tested

Hebrews 11:17-19

**By faith** (not works) Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten (unique) son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," <sup>19</sup> **concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead**, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

**(A Prophetic Re-Enactment if you will)**

**Abraham Believed**

**in the Resurrection Doctrine & Power of God**

**Nothing Will Stand Between Me and His Promises**

Romans 4:18-25

who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup> And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. <sup>22</sup> And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." <sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

**. . . In His Sandals**

Everything Abraham had come to Know About God,  
Didn't Match up to this Command.

"..had God lost control, had God turned evil,  
had God forgotten?.... Lord, what are you doing?"

1b.) The Association of Faith and Works Together

vv. 22

Do you **see** that faith was **working together** with his works, and by works faith was made **perfect**?

How can you know that you're saved and going to heaven  
(James says, take a look at your life)

\* Do you **see**      **grk 3708 horao (hor-ah'-o);**  
to discern clearly the facts. to experience fully the facts

\* **working together**      **grk 4903 sunergeo (soon-erg-eh'-o);**  
to be a fellow-worker, i.e. co-operate:  
To work and to keep on working. A characteristic of life

Abraham's Faith, Invisible to the World Around him  
**Until**

\* **perfect**      **grk 5048 teleioo (tel-i-o'-o);**  
to bring to a completion, to bring to a consummation, to finish well.

The Difficulties in my Life, Like in Abraham's,  
are designed to display my genuineness of my professed faith

It's the Trials, Difficulties, and Tests  
That Prove to me that I am Really Believing in Jesus,  
That I really Have Faith in Him

1 Peter 1:6-9

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of your souls.

# What is Going On Right Now



between you and the Lord and are you really growing and stretching?

## Is There any Evidence of Faith?

1c.) The Authority of God's Prophetic Word

vv. 23

And the Scripture was fulfilled which says....,  
"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.  
"And he was called the friend of God.

### The Faithfulness of God's Word

"And the Scripture was fulfilled"

#### The Prophetic Word of God Stands Alone

Matthew 5:17-18

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>  
"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means  
pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

2 Peter 1:19-21

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a  
dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup> knowing this first, that no  
prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man,  
but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NIV

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there  
is none like me. <sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.  
I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

(Verse 23)

There are 2 very key revelations here

**#1** - Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for  
righteousness..... "And **#2** - he was called the friend of God.

**#1**

Abraham **believed** God, and it was **accounted** to him for **righteousness**

God had spoken to Abraham

Which says, "Abraham **believed** God,

\* **believed** Has Come to Cling to

## This Verse Proves That We Are Saved By Faith Alone

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who **believes** in Me shall never thirst.

**SATISFACTION**

It was **accounted...**

\* **accounted** **grk** 3049 logizomai (log-id'-zom-ahee);  
to take an inventory, i.e. estimate (literally or figuratively):  
to do the numbers, to reason it out, to reckon the amount

\* **righteousness** **grk** 1343 dikaiosune (dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay);  
to make equal. The character or actions of the Christian in God's view -  
justification

Romans 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners,  
so also by one Man's obedience (Jesus) many will be made righteous.

## It's the positional righteousness that is issued by God

- To make a ruling; to establish a precedence
- We Have Been "Recorded" as Righteous!

### **The Purchase of Property**

The legal description tells you the "What it is" about the property.  
It is described in a certain legal fashion

Colossians 2:13-14 NIV

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:19,21 NIV

for God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.....

<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Because I have come to God  
through Faith in Jesus Christ,  
God has Saved Me from All my Sin....

## The Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:30-31a

.... And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...**

## Outwardly

If there is no fruit and works in association with my profession of faith,  
- then there is a serious doubt that I even know God at all

..... "And #2  
he was called the friend of God.

## A Real Danger... Making "Faith" the Issue, Believing in Faith

"If you Just have enough faith, you can do it"  
just have faith man

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A lot of Ministries on the Radio and T.V.  
teach that all you need is more faith

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"I knew it was going to be O.K. - because I had a lot of Faith"  
Hey, Just Rub the Magic Lamb, Faith comes out and you're in there Bob-O'

Are we Being Encouraged to Have Faith in Faith  
or are we being encouraged to have faith in God?

(verse 23)

And it was **accounted** to him for righteousness." And he was **called** the  
friend of God.

Called **the friend** of God.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:10  
for he waited for the city which has foundations,  
whose builder and maker is God.

## God's Friends Can Be Found "diligently seeking Him"

\* friend grk 5384 philos (fee'-los);  
to love, to be very fond of, to be as one with another

John 15:14  
"You are My **friends** if you **do** (works) whatever I command you.

**Are you My friend?**  
Then "**DO**" whatever I command you

Skeptics Will Say  
"I Can't believe in God because I can't see God"

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This "Blind Faith" Stuff  
"It is by works that the world is convinced that God Exists"

Is There Enough Physical Evidence  
to Prove Your Argument - that you are a Christian ?

**2.) The Illustration of Saving Faith Itself** **vv. 24**

You see then that a man is **justified by works**,  
and not by faith only.

2a.) Saving Faith can be Seen by others

You see then  
12

2 Corinthians 13:5

**Examine** yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?

## 2b.) Saving Faith is a Dynamic to Ourselves

That a man is **justified by works**,  
and not by faith **only**.

# By faith **only** (*alone*)

## 3.) The Illustration of Rahab's Saving Faith

vv. 25

Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also **justified by works** when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

**Likewise**, was not Rahab the harlot...

**Likewise,**  
STOP RIGHT THERE

\* **Likewise**, grk 3664 homoios (hom'-oy-os);  
meaning, in same appearance and or character. To be of the same vein

Abraham

he was a man, he was a Jew, he had a heritage

**Rahab**

she was a woman, she was a gentile, without any heritage

She was pulled from the bottom of the barrel

James

“you’ve gotta come the same way by faith - works will follow”

Both the acts of Abraham and **Rahab**  
were a result of them first having faith in God...

Also **justified by works**  
(Jesus was related to Rahab through Salmon))

## That's Grace

### Rahab's Magnificent

Joshua 2:9-11

and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. <sup>10</sup> "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup> "And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

3a.) Rahab had no logical advantage

Likewise, was not Rahab **the harlot**

3b.) Rahab acted upon what she believed

Also **justified by works** when she received the messengers

3c.) Rahab's faith ministered to others

And sent them out another way?

**Fulfilling verses 16**

4.) The Illustration of Lost, Dead Faith ?

vv. 26

For as the body without the spirit is dead,  
so faith without works is dead also.

4a.) The Body is Dependent upon the spirit for life

For as the body without the spirit is dead,

4b.) The Faith is Qualified by the works in our lives'

So faith without works is dead also.

The "Faith" of the Mere Professor is a dead Faith that cannot produce works neither can it save you...

4c.) The Works must be the Result of Saving Faith

Have You Made a Personal Commitment to Christ  
that has resulted in a change in lifestyle?

# WARNING AGAINST

## >>>>>> Easy Believe ism <<<<<<<<

### Tell it like it is...

#### An Illustration of Words vs. Works

Matthew 9:2-6

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." <sup>3</sup> And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? <sup>6</sup> "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"-- then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Hebrews 4:2

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard **did not profit** them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

The Danger implied is this:  
That They Heard the Message like the Others,  
But did not "**Internalize**" the Faith - Left it Outside

## Are Sure Today That You're His... Really?

Job 19:25-27

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!