

FAITH WITH WORKS IS USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO OTHERS

Part 2

(James 2:24-26)

I. THE NEED TO RESIST PARTIALITY AND MANIFEST LOVE TOWARDS OTHERS (2:1-13)

II. THE BARRENNESS OF A BELIEVER'S FAITH WITHOUT WORKS (2:14-17)

III. THE BENEFIT OF A BELIEVER'S FAITH WITH WORKS (2:18-26)

A. James uses a HYPOTHETICAL OBJECTOR (2:18-20)

B. James uses the O.T. Illustration of ABRAHAM (2:21-23)

C. James uses the O.T. Illustration of RAHAB (2:24-26)

1. In a summary statement James lays out the evidence like a defense attorney, "*You see then that a man is justified by works [_____] ...*" (v. 24)

2. "*Works*" do declare us righteous (*dikaioo*) in the sense that our good works _____ to _____ that we have (at some point) exercised faith in the Lord.

3. James' second illustration couldn't be more different than his first one (v. 25a)...

ABRAHAM

REHAB

a. A _____

A foreign _____

b. A _____ of God

One of Israel's _____

c. A _____ man

A _____ woman

d. Greatly _____

Her profession (a harlot), _____

4. It seems best to understand from her own testimony (Joshua 2:9-13) that she had placed her _____ in the God of Israel _____ the spies ever arrived at her door.

5. Rahab's faith was demonstrated to the two spies, to the nation of Israel, and to the world when she _____ her _____ to hide the Hebrews and then make sure they got out safely. (v. 25b, cf. Heb. 11:30-31)

6. James was illustrating with these two polar opposites that it _____ what background, or ethnicity you are from; for _____ and _____ believers – God desires that your faith would manifest itself in works.

7. The author ends this section with an analogy of the human body to illustrate his main point, that "*faith without works is dead*", i.e., _____ from its intended _____ without denying its real existence. (v. 26)

D. Some closing comments

1. The faith spoken of James in chapter 2 is always the faith of a Christian (2nd Tense), never the initial faith of an unsaved sinner in response to the gospel.
2. This portion of Scripture is designed to impress believers with the relevancy of good works as demonstrated in profitable Christian conduct which benefits others.
3. Believers who verbalize their faith without demonstrating it in works are merely hearers of the Word and not doers. (James 1:22)
4. According to Paul, believers have been born again for the purpose of good works. (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:11-14; 3:8)
5. Faith is nourished and strengthened by works, as James stated (in 2:22), "*by works faith was made perfect*".