



MZBMP

Title: Living Faith vs. Dead Faith (part 3) – 2 Examples of Living Faith

Text: James 2:21-26

“21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Pagsasalin: 21 Hindi ba ang ating amang si Abraham ay inaring-ganap sa pamamagitan ng mga gawa, nang kanyang inihandog si Isaac na kanyang anak sa ibabaw ng dambana? 22 Nakikita mo na ang pananampalataya ay gumagawang kalakip ng kanyang mga gawa, at ang pananampalataya ay naging ganap sa pamamagitan ng mga gawa. 23 Kaya't natupad ang kasulatan na nagsasabi, “Si Abraham ay sumampalataya sa Diyos, at iyo'y ibinilang sa kanya na katuwiran,” at siya'y tinawag na kaibigan ng Diyos. 24 Nakikita ninyo na ang tao'y inaaring-ganap sa pamamagitan ng mga gawa at hindi sa pamamagitan ng pananampalataya lamang. 25 Gayundin, hindi ba't si Rahab na masamang babae ay inaring-ganap sa pamamagitan ng mga gawa, nang tanggapin niya ang mga sugo at pinalabas sila sa ibang daan? 26 Sapagkat kung paanong ang katawan na walang espiritu ay patay, gayundin naman ang pananampalataya na walang mga gawa ay patay.

Introduction:

1. In chapter 2 – James is bringing out the truth of Living Faith (pure religion) vs. Dead Faith.
2. Last week we saw “Devilish” Faith – Faith that affirms Biblical truth but is void of good works.
3. Today, we shall look closely at two examples of living faith.

I. Abraham's Example: (vv.21-24) [represents the Jewish believers; “our father” – Jewish audience] – man; honorable or upstanding.

- A. Abraham offered up Isaac, Gen. 22.
- B. Living faith produces works. – Abraham was declared righteous years before he offered Isaac, Gen. 15:6.
- C. Abraham's works reveals his faith. ILL – planting a fruit tree. (root and fruit)
- D. By works faith is “made perfect” or made complete. – full, intended use.
- E. He was called the “Friend of God” (2 Chr. 20:7; Isa. 41:8).

II. Rahab's Example: (vv. 25) [represents the Gentile believers] – woman; ill-repute.

- A. Rahab was justified by works (as evidence or illustration).
- B. Works demonstrate faith. You can see a man's justification by his works.
- C. Rahab was one of the women who acknowledged Jehovah and was honored to be included in the Messianic Lineage – “*the desire of women*” (Eve, Sarah, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Mary) [Dan. 11:37].
 - C.1. She had faith in Jehovah God (Josh. 2:9-12) (Heb. 11:31)
 - C.2. Her faith was evident when she received the spies, hid them, and sent them away.
 - C.3. She married Salmon and gave birth to Boaz (who married Ruth – David's great-grandmother). (Matt. 1:5)

Conclusion:

1. God saves those who repent of sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – regardless of their background, standing, reputation, gender – there is no respect of persons.
2. (v.26) Body and spirit illustrate the necessity of both faith and works in Justification.