



## **James:** *Wisdom for the Christian Faith*

James 2:14-26 *Wisdom for a True and Living Faith*

### Introduction

- ❖ John 5:24—*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*
- ❖ Romans 3:28—*For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*
- ❖ Galatians 2:16—*we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*
- ❖ Romans 1:17—*“The righteous shall live by faith.”*

### Can *THAT* Faith Save You?

- ❖ **James 2:14**
- ❖ **James 2:15-16**
- ❖ **James 2:17**

### Dealing with a potential objection

- ❖ **James 2:18a**
- ❖ **James 2:18b**
- ❖ **James 2:19**
  - ❖ Deuteronomy 6:4—*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”*

### The Example of Abraham and Rahab

- ❖ **James 2:20-25**
  - ❖ Genesis 15:5—*“Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*
  - ❖ Genesis 15:6—*And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*



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- ❖ Genesis 22:11-12—the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

### **Abraham’s Order of Events**

1. God made a promise
2. Abraham believed God’s promise (exercised faith)
3. Abraham was justified (counted as righteous) by faith
4. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son
5. Abraham demonstrated his faith by obeying the Lord
6. Abraham’s faith is recognized or vindicated by his obedience

### **Rahab’s Order of Events**

1. The Lord’s mighty deeds were made known to Rahab and her people
2. Rahab put her hope in God (she believed)
3. Rahab demonstrated her faith in that she showed compassion and care for God’s people even at great risk to herself
4. Rahab’s faith is recognized or vindicated by her obedience

### ❖ **James 2:24**

- ❖ Romans 3:28—*For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*
- ❖ Galatians 2:16—we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
- ❖ James 2:1—*My brothers, show no partiality as you **hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.*

We can summarize it this way...

- Paul is teaching us that *faith alone is the basis of our justification.*
- James is *defining true, justifying faith for us.*



**REFORMATION**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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### ❖ **James 2:26**

## What Works?

1. Repentance
2. Discipline
3. Obedience
4. Godliness
5. Love

## Is Your FAITH in Working Order?

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 13:5—*Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith.*