

Here IS the PROOF ~ James 2:20-26

→ **Scripture Reading** Heb. 11:1-2, 11:8-9, Gen. 15:5-6

Abraham's Faith was PERFECTED ~ James 2:20-24

[20] You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? [21] Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

Justified- to be Declared Righteous

Romans 5:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been JUSTIFIED through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Justified- Vindication to show or prove someone is Right or Justified

1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was VINDICATED by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

[23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. [24] You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

IMPLICATION

→ **Paul and James AGREE about HOW we are Saved and the IMPORTANCE of good works**

HOW are We Saved?

Titus 3:4-7 (NLT) But - When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, [5] He saved us, NOT because of the righteous things we had done, BUT because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. [6] He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. [7] Because of His grace He declared us RIGHTEOUS and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

James 1:18 (HCS) By His own CHOICE, He GAVE us a NEW BIRTH by the message of truth so that we would be the firstfruits of His creatures.

WHY are We Saved?

Titus 3:8 (NLT) This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that ALL who TRUST in God will DEVOTE themselves to DOING good...

James 2:26 (NIV) As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

→ **Abraham's FAITH was a GROWING and Developing FAITH**

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV) By FAITH Abraham, when CALLED to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, OBEYED and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:9 (NIV) By FAITH he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

Genesis 15:1 (NIV) ...Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.

Genesis 15:6 (NIV) Abram BELIEVED the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

The word BELIEVED here is the biggest word in the chapter, one of the greatest in the Old Testament... it is the FIRST instance of the verb BELIEVE in Scripture. PTW

As a result of this OBEDIENCE, God drew Abraham into a closer fellowship with Himself and called him God's friend.
HNTC

Hebrews 11:17 (NIV) By FAITH Abraham, when God TESTED him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the PROMISES was about to sacrifice his one and only son...

APPLICATION

Signs Our FAITH is REAL...

- Desire to see CHANGE in our own Lives
- THIRST for the Word of God
- Longing to OBEY and HONOR God
- Desire to see others come to FAITH in Jesus

RIGHTEOUS Prostitute? ~ James 2:25-26

[25] In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? [26] As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

IMPLICATION

→ Nobody is beyond the GRACE of God

Hebrews 11:31 (NIV) By FAITH the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

Joshua 2:9, 11 (NIV) ...I know that the LORD has GIVEN this land to you and that a great FEAR of you has FALLEN on us...

[11] ...the LORD your God IS God in heaven above and on the earth below.

In Jewish thinking Rahab was considered the MOTHER of all who turned to **Judaism from paganism**, the first example of a true CONVERT. DACarson

→ Nobody is beyond the GRACE of God

TAKE AWAY ??

Genuine FAITH IS... (Vaughan)

- not an EMPTY claim - 2:14-17
- not merely MENTAL Acceptance - 2:18-19
- Faith that PROVES itself through OBEDIENCE - 2:21-26

→ Faith is NOT Believing in spite of the Evidence but OBEYING in spite of the Consequences Wiersbe

Hebrews 11:17 (NIV) By FAITH Abraham, when God TESTED him, OFFERED Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son...

In Jewish thought the **offering of Isaac** was the **END of a long string of OBEDIENCE** beginning when God called Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldeans. DACarson

Hebrews 11:31 (NIV) By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

→ Faith is NOT Believing in spite of the Evidence, but OBEYING in spite of the Consequences Wiersbe

Redeemed, and with the price of blood - Which You have shed for me,
I stand, a monument of grace - A witness, Lord, for Thee.

Redeemed, and made by simple faith - An heir of Heaven above
Oh, love surpassing human thought - Oh, vast, unmeasured love