



# *A Faith That Saves*

*James 2:14-16  
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*A Faith that Saves is a Faith that  
Transforms*

## A. Saving/Living Faith Is Profitable – It Produces A Changed Life

- James 2:14–17 **What does it profit**, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can (such/that) faith save him?**<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,<sup>16</sup> 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?<sup>17</sup> Thus also (such) **faith by itself (according to itself)**, if it does not have works, is dead.

## 1. The profession of faith questioned.

- James 2:14 What does it **profit**, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?  
**Can (such/that) faith save him?**
- 1 Corinthians 15:32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, **what advantage is it** to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## 2. The nature of such faith illustrated.

- James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,<sup>16</sup> 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*.

- 1 John 3:17–18 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, **how does the love of God abide in him?**  
18 My little children, let us not **love** in word or in tongue, but **in deed and in truth.**

3. The problem of workless faith pronounced.
  - James 2:17 Thus also **(such) faith by itself (according to itself), if it does not have works, is dead.**

## B. Saving/Living Faith Is Fruitful – It Engages In The Work Of God

- James 2:18–20 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.<sup>19</sup> **You believe** that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!<sup>20</sup> But **do you want to know**, O foolish man, **that faith without works is dead.**

## 1. The Objection anticipated.

- James 2:18a But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.”

## 2. The objection answered.

- James 2:18b-19 **Show me your faith** without your works, and **I will show you my faith** by my works.  
19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble.”

### 3) The appeal offered.

- James 2:20 ***But do you want to know, O foolish man,  
that faith without works is dead”***

## C. Saving/Living Faith Evident – It Gives God First Place In Everything

- James 2:21–23 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.**

➤ James 2:24–26 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**

# 1. The Evidence of a living faith in the life of Abraham, the friend of God.

- James 2:21–23 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**”.

# The Evidence Of A Living Faith In The Life Of Abraham, The Friend Of God (v.v. 21-23)

## Genesis 15:1–4

After these things the word of **the LORD** came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**”<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!”<sup>4</sup> And behold, **the word of the LORD came to him**, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

## Genesis 15:5–6

Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup> And **he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness**

## Genesis 22:1–3

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> Then 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.**

## Genesis 22:4–7

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?”

## Genesis 22:8–10

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”

John 15:14–15

You are My friends if you **do whatever I command you.**

<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

2. The evidence of a living faith cannot be separated from the possession of a living faith.
  - James 2:24 You see then that **a man is justified** by works, and not by faith only.

### 3. The evidence of a living faith in the life of Rahab, the harlot.

- James 2:25-26 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?  
26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**



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