

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we gather to study Your Word, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom. Open our hearts and minds so that we may fully understand the truth that “faith without works is dead.” Help us to see the examples of Abraham and Rahab as reminders to live out our faith through action. In Your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

Faith and Works: A Bible Study on James 2:20–26

Scripture Passage (KJV)

James 2:20–26

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

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 that a man is justified by his works, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also 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.

Fill-in-the-Blank Exercise

Complete the following sentences by filling in the missing words:

1. James 2:20 tells us that **faith without _____ is dead.**
Answer Hint: It’s what our actions are called.
2. Abraham was justified by his _____ when he offered Isaac his son upon the altar.
Answer Hint: Think of the tangible demonstration of his trust in God.
3. According to verse 24, a man is justified by his _____, and not by faith only.
Answer Hint: This word also appears in our first blank.
4. Rahab was justified by _____ when she received the messengers and helped them escape.
Answer Hint: This is the same word used in the previous two sentences.
5. James compares faith without works to a body without the _____.
Answer Hint: Consider what gives life to the body.

Discussion Questions

- **What does “faith without works is dead” mean to you?**
Consider examples from your own life where your actions have reflected your beliefs.
- **How did Abraham demonstrate his faith?**
Reflect on the significance of his willingness to offer his son Isaac and what this teaches us about obedience.
- **In what practical ways can you live out your faith?**
Discuss personal, church, or community actions that could be seen as the “works” of your faith.
- **How does Rahab’s example challenge or encourage you?**
Think about how someone with a questionable background can still display genuine faith through their actions.
- **How do you balance your belief in God with the actions you take daily?**
Share ideas on integrating faith and works in everyday decision-making.

Reflection

Take a few moments to meditate on your walk with God:

- **Self-Check:** Are there areas in your life where your actions might not fully reflect your faith?
- **Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to reveal specific ways in which you can be more active in living out Your Word.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father,

Thank You for the truth revealed in Your Word today. As we leave this time of study, help us to remember that true faith is active and demonstrated through our works. Empower us by Your Spirit to live lives that honor You, just as Abraham and Rahab did. Guide us in putting our faith into action every day, and let our deeds reflect our love for You and others. In Jesus’ name, we pray, Amen.

Remember: True faith is never passive—it is active, transformative, and shown through our deeds. Use this study to help examine and deepen the connection between your belief and your actions.