

# JAMES

## Lesson 14: Show Your Faith (Part 2)

14 February 2020

### The justification of Abraham

**Justify:** to declare or prove to have done that which is just, right, proper, etc.; To treat as if righteous and just.

**Vs 21** Abraham was justified by works. His actions showed that he had faith in what God said.

- We are saved one time from our sins. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are justified (declared righteous in the eyes of God in regard to our sins). This is a one-time event which is permanent. This is our **past** salvation
- After salvation, whenever we are obedient to God's instructions and by faith, we conduct our lives according to His word, God can declare that our actions are right. We are justified by our works. These works do not contribute to our salvation; they are a result of our faith in what God says in His word. This pertains to our **present** (daily) salvation, which is referred to as sanctification (2 Thess 2:13).
- God has promised us a new glorified body. The redemption of our body is part of our **future** salvation and justification (Rom 8:11, 23).

### ABRAHAM'S FIRST JUSTIFICATION:

**Galatians 3:6-9** Abraham believed God. His faith was accounted to him for righteousness (justification).

**Genesis 12:1-4** Abram heard God's word. God said, "Go." Abraham departed as the Lord had spoken unto him. His faith was evidenced by his action (works).

**Hebrews 11:8-19** Abraham's obedience resulted from his faith in what God said. God's grace would bless and preserve Abraham. Abraham's faith is what activated God's grace toward him.

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### ABRAHAM'S SECOND JUSTIFICATION:

**Romans 4:9-22** Many years after Abraham left his homeland and his father's house, faith was reckoned to him for righteousness the second time (vs 9). He was justified by faith (he did what God told him to do). God will save you by grace if you have faith (vs 16).

What did Abraham do? Abraham was old, Sarah's womb had been long dead, but Abraham believed God when God told him he would be the father of many nations. His faith was imputed to him for righteousness (vs 22). God can justify you more than once.

**Genesis 17:15-17** God told Abram he would have a son of Sarai his wife. What did Abraham do? He went beyond intellectual acceptance of what God said and took action based on God's words. He had relations with his wife knowing that God's promise would be fulfilled.

**Hebrews 11:11-12** God says it was through faith that Abraham and Sarah had a baby. God's grace was enabled through faith; through the actions that showed they believed God.

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## **ABRAHAM'S THIRD JUSTIFICATION:**

- James 2:21-23** Years later Abraham was justified by works when he offered Isaac his son upon the altar.
- Genesis 22:1-12** Abraham did what God told him to do, revealing the third time that he believed God.
- Hebrews 11:17-19** Abraham offered Isaac by faith. His faith was evidence that he believed God could raise Isaac from the dead to fulfill his promise (that Isaac was the promised seed which would bless many nations).
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**Vs 22** James asks the question, "Can you see how faith and works go together?" Faith is completed (made perfect) by works. Without faith, God's grace is hindered. Without works, faith cannot be seen. If there are no works, your faith is dead (vs 17) and vain (vs 20). If you truly believe, you will take action according to your belief.

There will be many opportunities in our life for God to declare us righteous. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, when God says, "Well done..." He will be justifying us again.

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## **WORKS WILL FOLLOW SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH**

- Titus 2:11-12** After the grace of God brings salvation, the evidence will be seen in your sober, righteous, godly life in this present world.
- Titus 3:5-8** Salvation is not by works, but once you believe, you ought to maintain good works.
- 1 Tim 2:3-10** God is the Savior, Christ gave Himself a ransom, now live godly, do good works.
- 1 Thess 2:13** When you receive the word of God and believe it, it will have an effect upon your life.
- Col 3:1-5** If you are risen with Christ, it's time to change your affections, mortify your members (account your flesh as dead).
- Php 1:6-11** Christ began a good work in you when you first believed. Now do the right thing.
- Eph 2:8-10** You are saved by grace through faith...created unto good works. We should walk in them.
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**Vs 25** The example of Rahab. She heard, she believed (true faith), she acted upon her belief (Joshua 2, 6).

**Vs 26** If your profession of faith doesn't have any works to back it up, it is a dead faith that cannot save.

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