



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

TUESDAY

7:00pm-9:00pm ▶ **THF COLLEGE - College Hangouts**
Leaders will reach out with details!

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm-8:30pm ▶ **THF STUDENTS - Worship & Small Groups**
Doors & Youth Cafe open at 6:30pm

THURSDAY

6:30am-7:30am ▶ **MEN'S MINISTRY - Fellowship & Bible Study**
Meets in the THF Mall

JANUARY 28, 2024

Please continue to check all of our
social media outlets and our website
for updates to weekly activities
and Sunday Services.

www.theheightsfellowship.org



UPCOMING AT THF

MAR 24
LORD'S SUPPER

PRINTING YOUR GIVING STATEMENT

VISIT

www.theheightsfellowship.org

- Click Connect Link
- Click Online Member Portal
- Click Infellowship
- Log in or create an account)
- Change year to 2023
- Click View

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

JANUARY 21, 2024

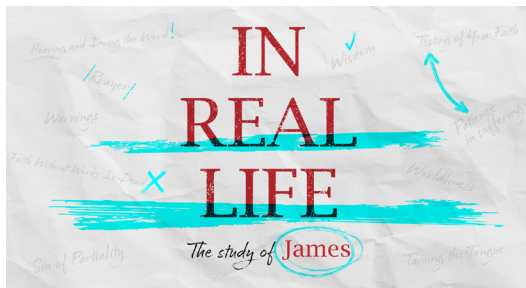
BUDGET GIVING: \$12,597.00

BUDGET NEEDS: \$50,929.07

YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING: \$18,919.00

BUDGET NEEDS: \$54,055.00



FAITH WORKS PART 2

"O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them."

- Martin Luther (Preface to James)

This text in James is full of contrasts -

→ Two kinds of **FAITH** -

LIVING faith - faith in Jesus that brings *eternal life*

DEAD faith - a useless, impotent trust in *nothing really*

False faith does not translate **PRACTICALLY** (to anything) vv15-16

False faith exists in a **VACUUM** as just a claim vv 17-18

False faith is less than even **DEMON** faith vv 19-20

→ Two kinds of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** -

POSITIONAL - God declares that we stand *right* with Him cf 2 Cor 5:21

PRACTICAL - refers to how we *stand (live out)* right before God

→ Two kinds of **WORKS** -

LEGALISM WORKS - try to *impress* God enough to earn/get to heaven

FRUIT WORKS - the kind that emerge from a saving faith

7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. 9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case-things that accompany salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him... Hebrews 6:7-10 niv

→ Two kinds of **JUSTIFICATION** - **DO YOU EVER WONDER IF YOU'RE SAVED?**

SAVING JUSTIFICATION - where we 'get saved' Rom 4:3-5; Gal 2:16

VALIDATING JUSTIFICATION - where we see that faith *works* Jn 15:14

A Collision of Ideology - Paul and James

Paul is fighting the false faith of **EARNING** salvation (*I'll trust my works...*)

James is fighting the false faith of **EASY BELIEVISM** (*I just have to trust facts about God to get into heaven*)

Both Paul and James use **ABRAHAM** to prove their respective points!

I don't picture James and Paul standing toe-to-toe with each other with contrary understandings of the gospel. Instead, they are standing back-to-back with each other fighting two different enemies and together defending a unified understanding of the gospel. - David Platt

Notes from The Heights

Series: In Real Life

Two Pictures of Faith

Abraham

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. James 2:20-25

— Paul insists that Abraham was justified by **FAITH** Rom 4

— James says Abraham was justified by **WORKS** vv21-23

James and Paul use **TWO DIFFERENT** vignettes for their argument!

Paul uses the **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT** story - **GENESIS 15:3-6**

James uses the story of **OFFERING OF ISAAC** - **GENESIS 22** **CF IS 61:10**

These two events were approximately 40-50 years apart!

The KEY to reconciling James and Paul:



1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if **Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God.** 3 For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Romans 4:1-3

22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, **faith was perfected**; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

GEN 22:1 - GOD 'TESTED' ABRAHAM

James 2:22-23

Genesis 22 simply **VALIDATED** what Genesis 15 said!

Within the Greek structure of James 2:21, there is something interesting...

was justified (*edikaioóthee*) v21 in this form has 2 meanings -

1) to be treated as righteous (Romans 4 meaning)

2) to vindicate or demonstrate as righteous (James 2 meaning)

Rahab **CF JOSHUA 2**

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

— Rahab was the *social and spiritual* **OPPOSITE** of Abraham

— We don't know *how much* Rahab knew about God - but,

WHAT SHE DID KNOW, SHE BELIEVED

— Rahab **DEMONSTRATED** her faith by putting her life in **GOD'S HANDS** 'in the same way' v25 means **JUST LIKE ABRAHAM**

In Hebrews 11, both Abraham and Rahab make the 'Faith Hall of Fame'

Abraham vv8-10

Rahab v31

Both are highlighted for doing what they did '**BY FAITH**' - In other words:

THEIR FAITH PROMPTED THEM TO ACTS(LIVES) OF OBEDIENCE

Notes from The Heights

Series: In Real Life

THF LIFENotes
Week of January 28

1. How would you respond to someone who says the Bible has many contradictions? How do you think through passages that seem to contradict one another?
2. Explain this statement: We should differentiate between positional righteousness and practical righteousness, but we shouldn't completely separate them.
3. What works or spiritual disciplines are you tempted to rely on for a right standing before God?
4. What passages of Scripture would you point someone to in order to show them the kind of fruit God expects from His people?
5. Explain why Rahab's actions didn't earn her favor with God. How did Rahab's actions give evidence of saving faith?
6. How is Rahab a picture of every follower of Christ, no matter their testimony?