

James 2:20-26

20-24. But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **Was not Abraham our father justified by WORKS** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 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. You see then that a man is **justified by WORKS**, and not by faith only.

- **Hebrews 11:17-19** "By _____ Abraham, when he was _____, _____ up Isaac, and he who had received the promises _____ up his only begotten _____, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' accounting (believing) that _____ was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense."
- **Romans 4:5** "But to him who does _____ WORK (doing good deeds in order to try to earn salvation) but _____ on Him who _____ the ungodly, his _____ is accounted for _____."
- **Galatians 2:16** "Knowing that a man is not _____ by the works of the law but by _____ in Jesus Christ, even we have _____ in Christ Jesus, that we might be _____ by faith in _____ and not by the works of the _____; for by the _____ of the law (keeping the Old Testament commandments) no flesh shall be _____."
- **Romans 4:1-3** "What then shall we say that _____ our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was _____ by _____, he has something of which to boast, but _____ before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham _____ God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'"

Definition: "JUSTIFIED" - To be JUSTIFIED before God means that God by His GRACE declares RIGHTEOUS the sinner who believes on Jesus Christ. It is **NOT a process of becoming righteous, it is a ONE-TIME ACT of GRACE** - we, as sinful people, are MADE RIGHTEOUS the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior! It is NOT merely FORGIVENESS, although forgiveness is INCLUDED - God does indeed FORGIVE and FORGET OUR SINS. However, **JUSTIFICATION means God even FORGETS that we were ever sinners!** There is NO MORE RECORD of our sins. This kind of "justification" before God is by FAITH alone, plus nothing else. **Your works will not ADD anything to what Jesus did for you on the cross.** If you have placed your FAITH in Jesus Christ to save you, BELIEVING that He PAID for your sins on the cross, you do NOT have to work to KEEP yourself saved, because you are already completely saved, and you will never lose it or become unsaved. You cannot earn your salvation by works, and you don't have to work to keep it. The **"working out"** or outward manifestation of the salvation that is already inside you (Phil. 2:12-13), is the process of **growing to Christ-likeness** and having His image formed in you.

- **Philippians 2:12-13** "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, _____ out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is _____ who _____ in you both to will and to do for _____ good pleasure."
- **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be _____ sin for us, that we might be _____ the _____ of _____ in Him."
- **Romans 3:24 & 28** "Being _____ freely (as a gift) by His _____ through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." "Therefore we

- conclude that a man is _____ by _____ apart from the deeds (works) of the law."
- **Luke 18:13-14** "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be _____ to me a _____!' 'I tell you, _____ man went down to his house _____ rather than the other; for everyone who _____ himself will be abased (put down, humbled), and he who _____ himself will be _____."
 - **Titus 3:7** "That having been _____ by His _____ we should become heirs according to the hope of _____."

Definition: "A man is JUSTIFIED by WORKS" - The Bible teaches that salvation is by FAITH ALONE, so where do our works come into it? **Are we justified by FAITH or by WORKS?** Some Scriptures, such as Romans 4 and James 2, SEEM to be contradictory, because they both use the terms "justified by works": in James it says we ARE justified by our works, and in Romans it says we are NOT justified by our works. This is not a contradiction, however, because if you look at each one in its context, you will see that Romans is speaking about being justified before God, and James is speaking about being justified before men. **Our good works should be evidence to OTHER PEOPLE** that we belong to Jesus Christ.

- **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before _____, that they may _____ your _____ and glorify your Father in heaven."
- **Titus 3:8** "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have _____ in _____ should be careful to maintain _____ and profitable to _____."
- **Titus 3:14** "And let our people also learn to maintain _____, to meet urgent _____, that they may not be _____."
- **Titus 2:7-8** "In all things _____ yourself to be a pattern of _____; in doctrine _____ integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that the one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having _____ evil to _____ about you."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully _____ Him, being fruitful in every _____."

Definition: "Was not ABRAHAM our father JUSTIFIED by WORKS?" - There is another kind of justification, the kind spoken of in James, and that is referring to our witness or testimony before MEN rather than before God. Our works become a testimony to others, because **REAL faith will have good works as a RESULT** of salvation. Someone has said, "Salvation is by faith alone, but real faith that saves is never alone." Romans 4:2 says, "if Abraham was **justified by WORKS**, he has something of which to boast, **but not before God.**" Justify in this sense means **"to prove or show to be just, right or righteous."** Abraham was **"justified" in that his actions SHOWED or PROVED** that he was a righteous man and a believer in God. There is a popular saying that goes, "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough **evidence** to convict you?" Do people know there is something different about you now that you are a Christian, or do you act just the same as you always did? St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel always, and when necessary, use words." We are talking about the kind of witness we have before non-believers. **Do they see Christ in us, or at least see us on our way and in the process of being changed and transformed?** Philippians 2:12-13 says our

salvation must be "WORKED OUT" so that it can be seen on the outside. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 that **our good WORKS would be SEEN by men**, and because of them, it would cause men to glorify God. In John 15:8, Jesus said the Father would be glorified by our producing MUCH FRUIT, which is another way to refer to our good works.

- **Genesis 22:1-2** "Now it came to pass after these things that God _____ Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Take now your _____, your only _____ Isaac, whom you _____, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt _____ on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.'"
 - **Genesis 22:9-14** Then they came to the place of which _____ had _____ him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and _____ his _____ Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand, and _____ the _____ to _____ his _____. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Do _____ stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for _____ I _____ that you fear (reverence) God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.' Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket (bushes) by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and _____ him up for a burnt offering in the _____ of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place The _____ Will _____, as it is said to this day, 'In the mount of the Lord it will be provided.'"

Definition: "GOD will PROVIDE for Himself the LAMB" - This story of Abraham is called a "type" of Christ, meaning that it is showing in a picture form the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins. Jesus is called **"The Lamb of God" and He is the lamb that the Father provided for all mankind**, as a sacrifice to take away our sins. God never wanted Abraham to make a human sacrifice out of his son Isaac. **God was testing Abraham** to see if his faith was strong enough to trust God even in this situation, and he passed the test. However, God was also **acting out the story of His sending His own Son**, His only begotten Son whom He loves, to die for us.

- **John 1:28-31** "These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day _____ saw _____ coming toward him, and he said, "Behold! The _____ of _____ who _____ the _____ of the world! This is _____ of whom I said, 'After me comes a _____ who is preferred before me, for He was before me. I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing with water.'"
 - **Definition: "The LAMB of God WHO TAKES AWAY the SIN of the WORLD"** - Under the New Covenant (New Testament), **our sins are completely TAKEN AWAY (remitted)** and WASHED AWAY in the BLOOD of JESUS. In the Old Testament (under the old Covenant), their sins were only COVERED TEMPORARILY until the Messiah, God's Lamb, would come to die and PAY THE PENALTY for the sins of the world. Every year, they would have the Day of Atonement to remind them that God's Lamb was not yet come, and **continual sacrifices and sin offerings** during the year. (See Exodus 30:10, Leviticus 16:30). The literal meaning of the word **"atonement" is covering** ("kapporah" in Hebrew, as in Yom Kippur). Now, when we believe in Jesus, and accept His sacrifice on the cross, **our sins are NOT just covered**, they are **REMITTED and TAKEN AWAY COMPLETELY** (REMIT - to release from the guilt or penalty of).

- **I John 3:5** "And you know that He was manifested to _____ our _____, and in Him there is no sin."

25-26. Likewise, **was not RAHAB the HARLOT also justified by WORKS** when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

- **Joshua 2:1-11** "Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, 'Go, view the land, especially Jericho.' So they went, and came to the house of a _____ named _____, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, 'Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.' So the king of Jericho sent to _____, saying, 'Bring out the _____ who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country.' Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.' (But she had brought them up to the _____ and _____ them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate. Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the _____, and said to the men, 'I know that the _____ has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the _____ dried up the _____ of the _____ for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our _____ melted; neither did there remain any more _____ in anyone because of you, for the _____ your God, He is God in _____ above and on _____ beneath.'"
 - **Joshua 6:25** "And Joshua spared _____ the _____, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she _____ the messengers whom Joshua sent to _____ out Jericho."
 - **Hebrews 11:30-31** "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By _____ the harlot _____ did _____ perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

Definition: "RAHAB the HARLOT also justified by WORKS" - How great is God's mercy! Under normal circumstances, a harlot (prostitute) would not be included among the genealogy of Jesus Christ, but Rahab is, by the grace of God. Because of her belief in the one true God, the God of Israel, she hid the spies, and **SHOWED by her "works" that her faith in God was real.** God protected her and her entire family when Jericho was destroyed, and He did not hold her past against her, but she became a member of the nation of Israel. She later married an Israelite man named Salmon, and she became the great-great-grandmother of King David, and therefore one of the ancestors of Jesus.

- **Matthew 1:1-6** "The book of the genealogy of _____ Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob..... Salmon begot Boaz by _____, Boaz begot Obed by _____, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot _____ the king....."