

faith! So Abraham, in obeying – *in doing works* – showed the evidence of his faith!

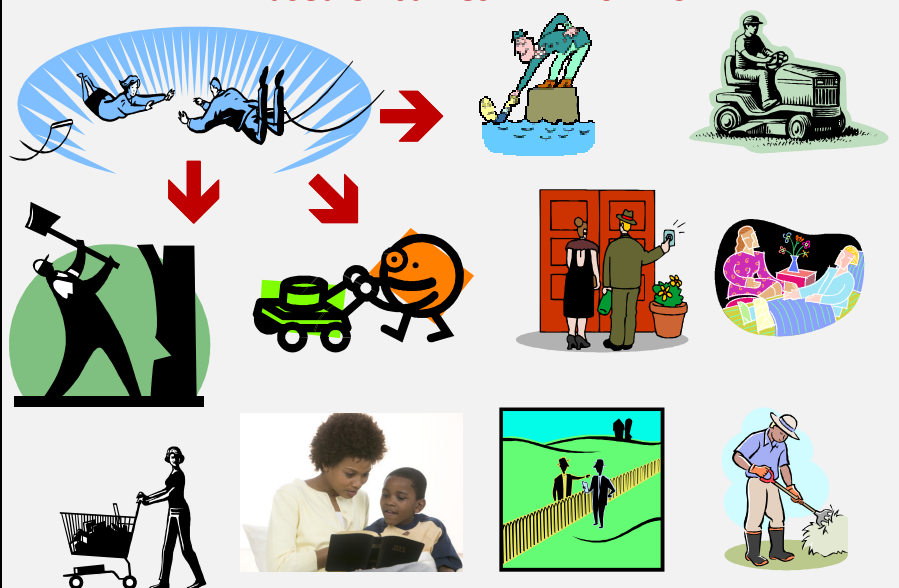
- b. Example 2 – Rahab (Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-25): ²⁵ **And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?** Rahab had expressed her faith by saying: “I know that the Lord has given this land to you...for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” (2:9, 11 NIV) Okay, she SAID she had faith; *then her works became the evidence to support her claim* – as she actually took daring action to save the lives of the spies!
- c. Part 3 Conclusion: ²⁶ **For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.** We understand: When a body dies, *the spirit has departed!* We should also understand: When works are not present, *faith is dead!*

Conclusion: Now, think about yourself: You SAY you have faith, but what if you were put on trial and your defense attorney gathered evidence, *would a jury of your peers weigh the evidence and say: “Yes, you have faith!”*

Works never save, *nor do they add to Jesus’ finished work*, but they are the evidence of our faith! So ✦let us be thankful for God’s free gift of forgiveness AND ✦let us show our faith with our works! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

The Biblical Relationship between Faith and Works – Part 2
Works are the Evidence of Faith!
Based on James 2:14-26 NAS



8th Sunday after Pentecost, 7th Sunday after Trinity – 2010
Sunday July 18 at 9:00 † Monday July 19 † 7:00

Above↑ The upper left hand picture symbolizes our faith; the other pictures symbolize some of the works *that result from our faith!*

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, we continue our focus on the relationship between *faith and works!* **Last week** we asked: ***How do people get to heaven?*** Even though many believe it is by faith + works, God makes it crystal clear in His Word that people get to heaven *only through faith ALONE in Jesus!* I pray that right this very moment you have that **blessed gift of faith in Jesus as your Savior!**

But wait! *If Jesus has done EVERYTHING to save ALL PEOPLE, why does the Bible say so much about works?* **Today,** may

God will make it crystal clear that our works are the
EVIDENCE OF OUR FAITH – *they show our faith to be genuine!*

1. **Faith without Works is Not Faith:**

- a. Two questions: ¹⁴ **What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith** [*in Jesus who lived without sin and died for all sins*], **but he has no works?** *What use is it? It is of NO use! Why? The man SAYS he has faith – but in fact he doesn't! Can that faith save him? Again, the answer is no – because what he SAYS is faith is actually not faith! Consider this container, I can SAY it has something in it but the proof is in the pouring...; it is actually empty – just like faith without works!*
- b. An example to show why the two answers are no: ¹⁵ **If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,** ¹⁶ **and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?** *Obviously of no use; well wishes will not warm a body or fill a stomach!*
- c. Part 1 Conclusion: ¹⁷ **Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.** *In other words, whenever faith is real, works will also be present!*

2. **Works Point to the Reality of Faith:**

- a. ¹⁸ **But someone may well say, “You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”** *Faith is seen by God but invisible to you and me; therefore, it is impossible for one person to show his faith to*

another person apart from his works! But how do we look upon our works? Why do we do what we do?

- i. **→ Out of gratitude to God for His gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ – RIGHT!**
- ii. **→ In an effort to help us get to heaven – WRONG!**

- b. ¹⁹ **You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.** *All of the evil angels have seen God, so they certainly believe God is God – but such believing does not help them or save them! Saving faith is repentance (sorrow for sin) and trust (faith) in Jesus alone as Savior!*

3. **Two Examples of Citing Works as the Evidence of Faith:**

- ²⁰ **But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?**
- a. Example 1 – Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18): 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.** **WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?** *Are we actually saved by faith + works? By no means! In the Genesis 22 account of Abraham and Isaac, it begins by saying: “God tested Abraham.” What was the test? To see if Abraham would obey God! Such obedience is not conjured up from within, but flows from God-given*