



## Lesson 9: Faith That Works

### Genesis 18: 1-15

1. Read James 2:14-26.
  - a. What is the central point of this passage? (verse 14)
  - b. We claim to be saved by faith. What is the meaning, therefore, of James' question, "Can faith save him? " (verse 14)
  - c. What will happen to a person who has faith but no works?
  - d. What will happen to a man who has works but no faith? (Mark 8:36)
  - e. What is James' condemning in verses 15-16?
  - f. What is "dead faith?" (verse 17)
  - g. How can we know whether our works are genuine - works that are the result of faith? (verse 17)

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- h. What is the best way to demonstrate faith according to James? (verse 18)
- i. What does verse 19 prove about “faith?”
- j. What happened to Abraham in Genesis 15:6? (verse 23)
- k. But what does James say happened to him in Genesis 22 (the incident regarding offering Isaac as a sacrifice)? (verses 21-22)
- l. Was Abraham’s faith “real” before he proved it to be so? (verse 22)
- m. What is James’ conclusion from the life of Abraham? (verse 24)
- n. How did the harlot Rahab prove that she had believed in the God of Israel? (verse 25; Joshua 2)

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- o. How would you describe the effect of works on faith using the spirit's effect on the body as an example? (verse 26)
2. What kinds of works do you believe prove the faith of a Christian?
  - a. How concerned should a Christian be about the validity of his faith if he can not cite any faith-works in his life?
  - b. What deception is possible by focusing overly on works; not keeping a balance between faith and works?
  - c. What faith-works can you identify in your life which you believe are expressions of your faith in Christ?
3. Read Romans 4:18-25.
  - a. What was the physical condition of Abraham's and Sarah's bodies with regard to childbirth? (verse 19)

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- b. What impact did that reality (ultimately) have on their faith? (verse 19)
  
- c. In spite of what he could see with his senses, how did Abraham respond to the promise of God? (verse 20)
  
- d. What did Abraham believe about God? (verse 21)
  
- e. Explain the meaning of “faith” in your own words using verses 20-22 as a basis:
  
- f. For whom was Genesis 15:6 (verse 22) written down? (verses 23-25)
  
- g. What should you personally apply from Abraham’s experience to your own understanding of saving faith?