

## “CAN FAITH SAVE HIM?”

### James 2:14

By inspiration, James asks a direct question about the possibility of salvation without works. He then proceeds to answer that question with a few different illustrations.

#### I. “WHAT DOES IT PROFIT?”

##### A. James 2:15-17

The first point to be made is a logical one, comparing faith sans obedience to leaving the indigent empty-handed. Offering well wishes to the needy without doing anything to relieve their destitution is pointless.

##### B. 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:17-18

Deed and truth trump word and tongue every time. We know this when it comes to helping the poor. We should know it concerning faith and obedience.

#### II. “EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE!”

##### A. James 2:18-20

The second argument put forth by the Lord’s brother is that if believing is sufficient for salvation, then even Satan’s angels are heavenbound!

##### B. Mark 3:11-12

Unclean spirits confessed the deity of Jesus!

##### C. Matthew 8:28-29

Demons know who will be judge on the last day!

#### III. “WAS NOT ABRAHAM OUR FATHER JUSTIFIED BY WORKS?”

##### A. James 2:21-24

James’s third rationale is to set forth an example, pointing to Abraham and Isaac.

**B. Genesis 22:1-18**

When Abraham was tested, he did as he was told and was blessed *“because you have obeyed My voice.”*

**C. Hebrews 11:17-19**

Abraham inferred what God was able to do, so he performed the deed he was commanded to. In that obedience, he proved his faith.

**IV. “LIKEWISE, WAS NOT RAHAB THE HARLOT ALSO JUSTIFIED BY WORKS?”**

**A. James 2:25-26**

In his fourth and final argument, James offers another example proving that faith is only evident through works by citing Rahab.

**B. Joshua 2:1-22; 6:16-25**

This woman knew her city and her countrymen would be overthrown by the Israelites because the God of heaven was their God! So, she allied herself with them and took real action. She protected the spies who came under her roof. As a result, she and all her family were spared from the destruction of Jericho.

**C. Hebrews 11:31**

Rahab’s faith saved her because she worked according to that faith.

**CONCLUSION**

**A. Hebrews 3:16-19**

Disobedience is tantamount to unbelief.

**B. Romans 10:9-10; Mark 1:15; 16:16**

Besides faith, one needs confession, repentance, and baptism to be saved.