

FAITH THAT WORKS IS ALIVE! • JAMES 2:18-26

I. REAL FAITH WORKS! - verse 18-20

A. WHERE IS THE 'FRUIT' IN OUR LIVES?

- Faith Without Works Is Dead!
- Matthew 7:16-21 - *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

- Faith and Works are like the two wings of a bird – they soar together...
- There Is Not A Demon In The Universe Who Is An Atheist! - verse 19

- The Story Of John Wesley

B. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WORKED! - verses 21-24

- Genesis 15:5-6 - *"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*
- This is the FIRST instance of the word believe in scripture! The emphasis is on the permanence of Abraham's faith

(over)

- Isaac voluntarily allowed his father to bind him for sacrifice! There is powerful emotion in between the lines here – weeping, tears, sorrow, faith...
- Genesis 22:18 - *Your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

- This Is Why Abraham Is Called 'The Friend Of God'

- John 15:14-15 - *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

C. RAHAB'S GENUINE FAITH - verse 25-26

- Is Abraham An Unfair Example? How About Rahab?
- Rahab demonstrates her own Towering Faith... In her own words...
- Joshua 2:9-11 - *"I know that the LORD 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 LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea 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 hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."*