

A FAITH THAT WORKS

Part 2: James 2: 21 - 26

Solid Rock Church
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Faith That Works 1

James 2: 14 - 20

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Faith: complete trust in something or someone

James' maxims: Faith without works is useless

Jesus said it's faith that produces works (Matt 5: 16)

Dead faith – no life, love, action – is no faith at all

Caring for the needs of our Church and our community reflects directly on our corporate faith that works.

Faith That Works: a Double Entendre

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We want a Faith that Works for others

Good deeds that brings Christ to others

We want a Faith that Works for us

Builds security, stability, strength in Christ

Ignites hope and trust beyond reason

James Changes “Works” Examples From Present to Past

James 2: 14 – 20 – Part 1

Example of a friend in need of clothing/food

Encouraging them verbally isn't faith that works

James 2: 21 – 26 – Part 2

Example of Abraham

Example of Rahab

Old Testament #1

Example: Abraham

James 2: 21, Was not Abraham our father **justified by works**, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?



Abraham's Faith Justified by Works?

Justified: Legal Term = vindicated / acquitted of charge

Abraham's faith is **vindicated** (shown to be true) by his obedience to God's commands

Abraham's faith is **acquitted** (demonstrated / pronounced) by his obedience and by God's favor

Faith: Shown and Demonstrated

Matthew 5:16, Let your light shine before others, that they may **see your good deeds** and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12, Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may **see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Mark 2: 5, When Jesus **saw the faith of the men** who carried the paralyzed man, He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven"

Abraham Example Continued

James
2: 22 - 24

You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, **faith was perfected;** 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.** You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith.

3 Results of Faith That Works from Abraham in 2: 22 - 24

1. Works perfect (complete) faith
2. Works fulfill Scripture
3. Works bring us closer to God



#1 Works Perfect Faith

Faith comes first – and the works came out of our faith.

Our works bring our faith to its intended completed goal.

A fruit tree produces fruit as its completed goal. Then rest, then it produces again

BEARING *Fruit*



John 15: 8, By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Bearing Fruit: character development in Christlikeness and spiritual works in the likeness of Christ.

#2 Works Fulfill Scripture

Abraham's faith was counted as righteous before he offered up Isaac as an obedient sacrifice. (faith before works)

Genesis 15: 6, And Abraham believed in the Lord, and God counted it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4: 3, For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God and was counted to him as righteousness.

Understanding Abraham's Context of Faith

He didn't have a Bible or Synagogue

From Ur of the Chaldeans

High culture – 60 minute / 1 hour

Astrologists, Jewel makers, architects
(ziggurats)

Pantheon of gods – Marduk, their chief
deity, Egyptian influence

Abraham's Faith was Before Circumcision

Genesis 12: Abraham called by God

Genesis 17: 10, This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.

Romans 4: 10, How then was it counted to Abraham? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised.

Abraham's Faith was Before the Mosaic Law

Romans 4: 13, For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be the heir of the world did not come through the Law but through the righteousness of faith.

Paul and James Agree

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Religious rites and legalism
don't bring justification

Circumcision, baptism, or
knowledge of the law, doesn't
bring about faith – they were
acts (works) of faith.



3 Works Bring Us Closer to God

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James 2: 24, Abraham was called the friend of God

If we don't talk to each other are we friends?

If we don't spend time with each other are we friends?

If we don't believe in one another are we friends?

If we don't love one another will the friendship last?

Friends of God in OT: Abraham + Moses

Isaiah 41:8: God refers to the patriarch Abraham as "the seed of **Abraham, my friend**".

2 Chronicles 20:7: King Jehoshaphat also refers to Abraham as **God's friend**.

Exodus 33:11, Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as **a man speaks to his friend**.

Friends of God in NT: Anyone in Faith

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John 15:15, No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Are you a friend of God's?

Abrahamic Example Summary

Our faith is perfected (completed),
shown and demonstrated through our
works.

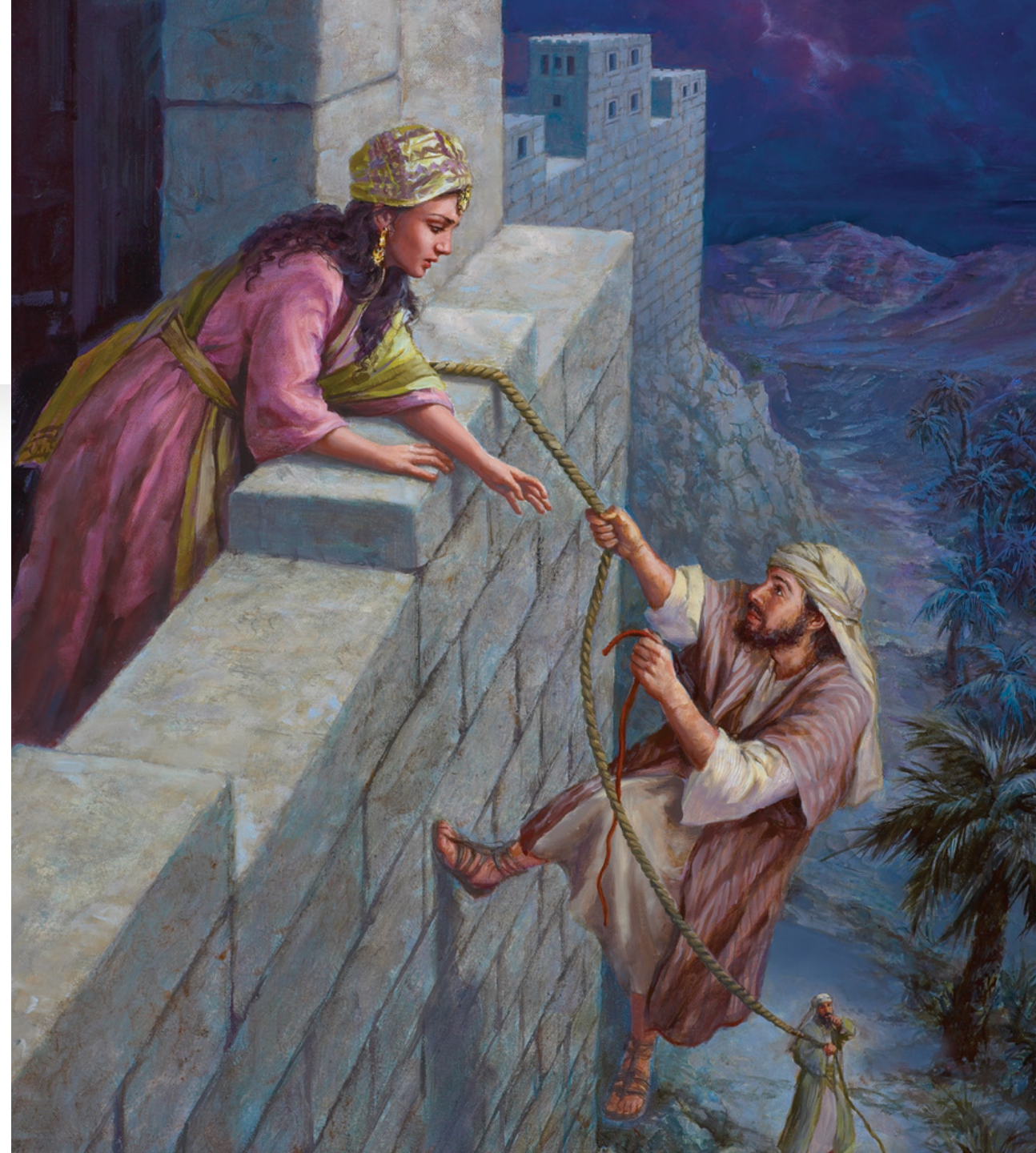
Our faith fulfills prophetic scripture
about our inclusion into the Abrahamic
covenant.

Our faith brings a closer friendship
with God; more time, communication,
and love we give – the more we receive.

Old Testament #2

Example: Rahab

James 2: 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?



Contrast in the Two Examples

Abraham: Patriarch

Father of the believing nation, friend of God

Rahab: Prostitute (Harlot – Inn Keeper in Hebrew)

Pagan, immoral, Canaanite woman, enemy

Canaanite Warnings in OT

Leviticus 18 describes a culture of adultery, incest, homosexuality, and bestiality.

They sacrificed children to Molech; on the outstretched arms of an idol in a consuming fire



MOLECH.

Rahab: Canaanite Heroine of Jericho

Joshua 2 is all about Rahab!

She hides 2 spies sent by Joshua

She lies to the King's military

She shares her fear/trust of God

She makes a deal with the spies

She is ordered to tie a scarlet
chord to her window, so Israelites
knew where to rescue her.



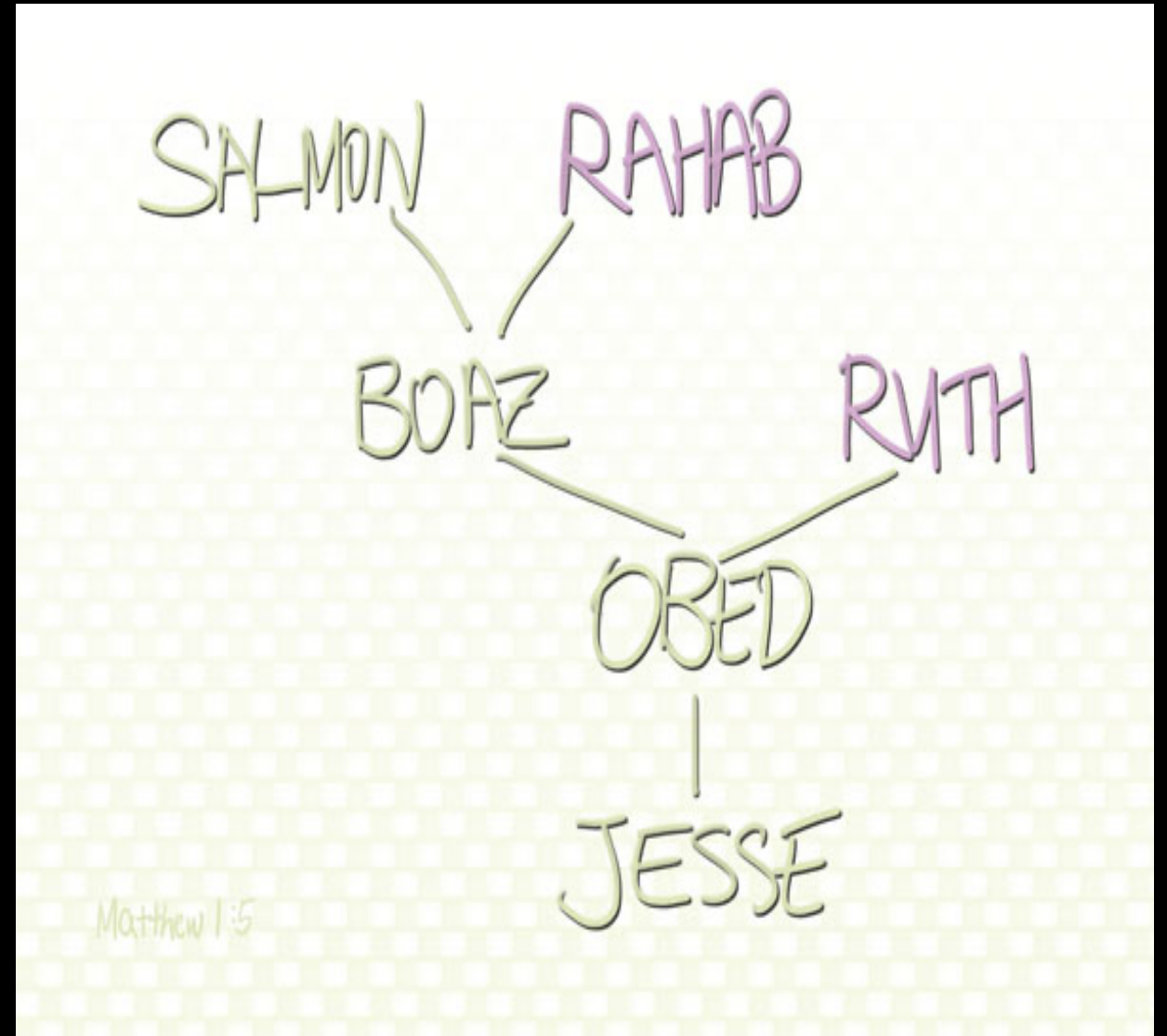
Rahab's Vindication and Acquittal

Joshua 6: 17, And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. **Only Rahab** the prostitute and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

Joshua 6: 25, **But Rahab** the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Rahab's was the Great, Great Grandma of King David!

Matthew 1: 5 – 6, and Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the King.



Rahab: 1 of 5 Women in Christ's Genealogy

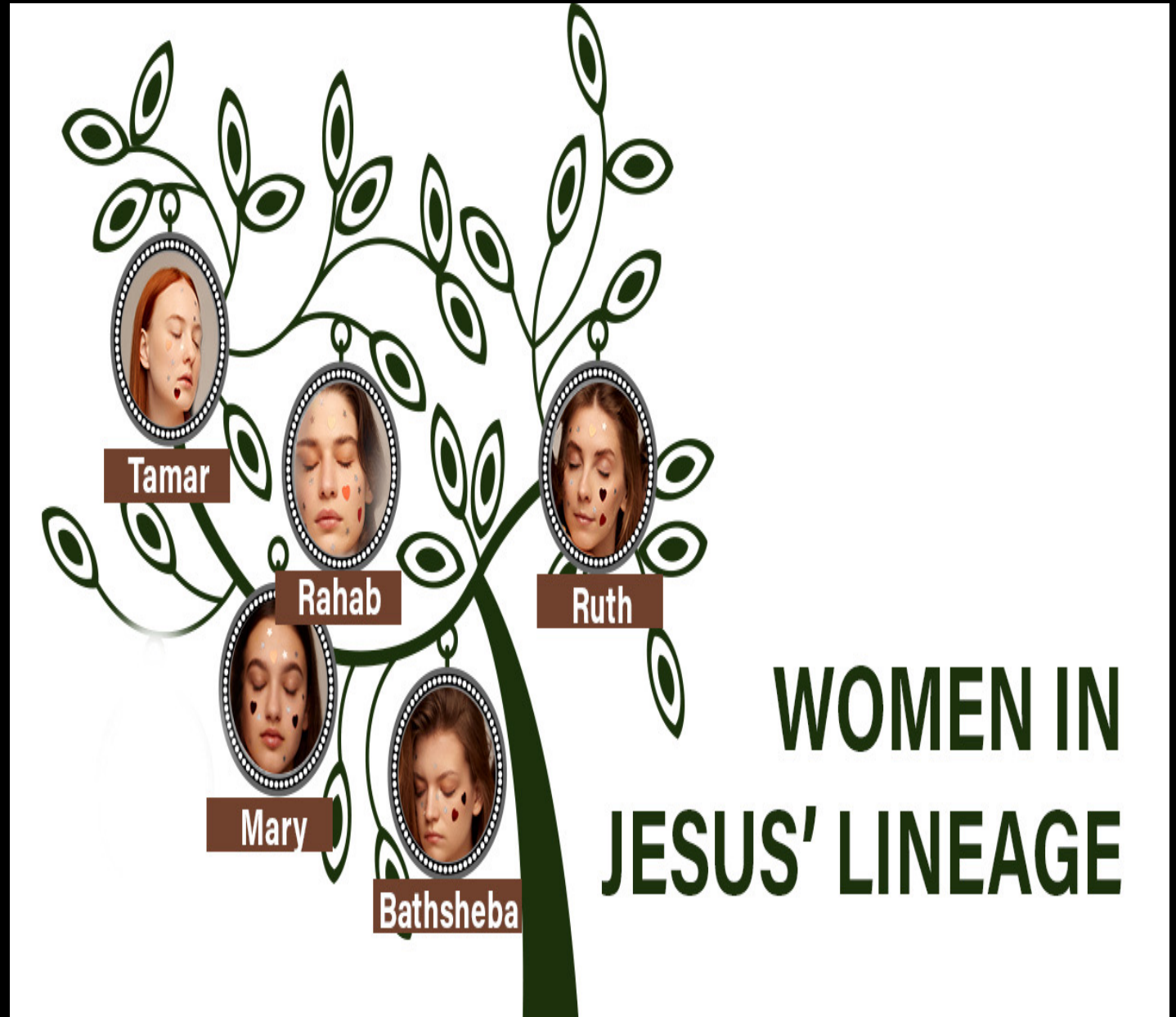
Tamar: Canaanite (Judah)

Rahab: Jericho prostitute

Ruth: Moabite widow

Bathsheba: Hittite widow

Mary: Jewish woman



James 2: 26: Closing Analogy

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For just as the body without the ***spirit*** is dead, so also faith without ***works*** is dead.

Spirit = *pneumatōs* in Greek = **breath**; don't breathe, die

If you don't show/demonstrate your faith, it's dead

Faith without works is dead, non-breathing = no faith

4 Physiological Faith Closers

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The mind understands faith through the Word

The heart desires faith and is moved in faith

The soul secures itself in faith and rests in faith

The will acts upon faith in obedience

Titus 3: 8, ...those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

Faith That Works: Final Questions

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Is your life a Faith that Works for others?

Good deeds that brings Christ to others

Is your life a Faith that Works for yourself?

Builds security, stability, strength in Christ

Ignites hope and trust beyond reason