

## Learn Your Bible

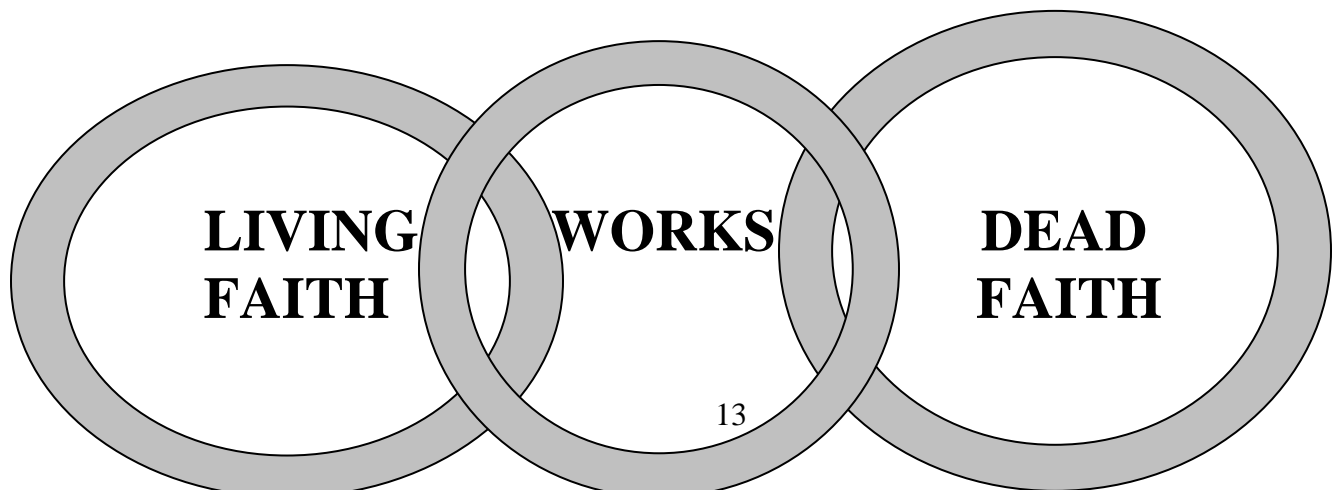
### Lesson #3

In this lesson, we shall seek to "draw out" of the scriptures what is meant by "salvation through faith." We will see that faith can be very specific, or a very inclusive term. I would like to compare it to the English word "drink."

If I were to meet you for the first time, and I were to say, "I really enjoyed the drink I had with my dinner," your first inclination may easily be that I had an alcoholic beverage. However, that statement could have referred to any number of beverages, such as coffee, iced tea, etc. The point is this; "drinking" is a very broad term. It can refer to soft or hard drinks, water or even alcohol. The context of the discussion has to determine what is meant. For example, if you knew that I "don't drink," (meaning alcoholic beverages), you would probably conclude that I had in fact, had some unusual or especially good tasting "soft" beverage, rather than something alcoholic.

So it is with faith. It can mean just a pure mental agreement on a given subject, or it may include an obedience, or even works. James seems to have this in mind in James 2, apparently, because Christians were misunderstanding the "salvation by faith" as taught since the resurrection. They had turned faith into a simple mental action. James helps them to remember that while faith can mean mental action, it also means far more.

James and Paul are not in some sort of argument, but rather they are explaining to the Jews that Abraham was being saved by faith before the Law (of Moses) and the works of the Law are not saving, but the faith of Abraham. James is arguing that faith without obedient works is not really faith, it is only this mental assent (note James 2:19). From James 2:26 we learn that both a living faith and a dead faith exist. Putting what we know into chart form, we might come up with something like this:



Using the following chart of Abraham's life, look up each scripture and mark each time Abraham's faith is imputed for righteousness. (You will find three times in these scriptures... it is specifically stated.)

( ) Promise at Haran, Genesis 12:1-4; Hebrews 11:8

( ) Promise renewed, Genesis 15:1-6;  
Romans 4:5, 9-10



( ) Birth of Ishmael, Genesis 16:16

( ) Laughs at promise of son, Genesis 17:1,17; Romans 4:19-22

( ) Circumcision, Genesis 17:10, 24

( ) Sacrifice of Isaac, Gen. 22; James 2:21-23; Hebrews 11:17-20



ANSWER THE  
FOLLOWING

1) Justification by faith is or is not a one time action.

2) When did Abraham become saved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) There is a point at which we are saved, or justified, but Abraham also teaches us a) we are justified once for all time, or b) we must continually be justified. (see I John 1:6,7)

4) Do you believe if Abraham had refused Isaac, that he (Abraham) would have gone to heaven? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) What do we learn about justification by faith from Abraham?

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6) a) **Who** also has the kind of faith Webster's dictionary calls "a doctrine believed" (James 2:19) \_\_\_\_\_

b) Looking at the conclusion of James' argument, (James 2:26) which faith would you say this is an example of? (living or dead)

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c) "Faith Only" is mentioned only one time in the New Testament. See James 2:24. How is it regarded? \_\_\_\_\_

Note: "only believe" is a phrase that does come up in scripture. This confuses some. Read Mark 5:35-43 consider that the faith of the father is under question, not the salvation of the daughter. For him to see his "heart's desire" he needs to hold on to what he already has... which is that the belief that Jesus can do something about his daughter. James is a book written by Jesus' brother and is obviously not taking issue with what Jesus said, but is describing something different. This study (our study) is concerned with our salvation.

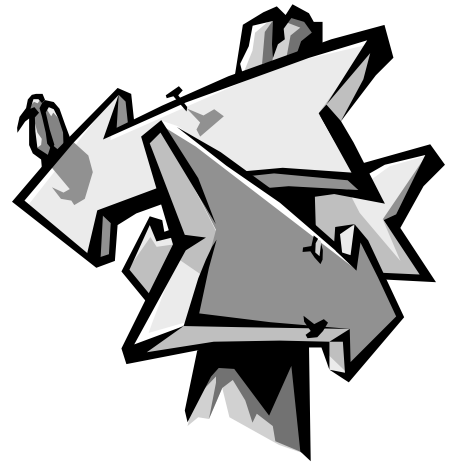
7) a) We often emphasize the "grace" of God and we should. What also is the gospel called? (James 1:25) \_\_\_\_\_

b) When James calls it the "Perfect Law of Liberty," he tells us that the gospel has what within its message? (see II Thessalonians 1:3-9)

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c) God is a loving God. This means that His sense of justice is somehow "restricted" by His love. True or False?

8) See Romans 3:23-26. God punishes all sin. Jesus' blood pays the price for the believer or unbeliever. But the believer or unbeliever is left to face his punishment alone.



9) See Ephesians 2:8-10

a) What (whom) was the grace (unmerited favor) of God? \_\_\_\_\_

b) We are saved through \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.

What actually saves us is the blood of Christ which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Refer back to Romans 3:23-26, particularly verse 26.

c) Is it possible for us to **earn** our salvation?

(see Ephesians 2:9) \_\_\_\_\_

d) God gave us what to “walk in”?

(Ephesians 2:10) \_\_\_\_\_

### **MATCHING:**

Hebrews 9:22	Tells us the means of our salvation is God's gift (grace) of His son through our faith
Romans 4:4	Tells us we can't earn our salvation
James 2:19	The demons also believe Jesus is the son of God
Ephesians 2:8	The only place in the New Testament that "faith only" is mentioned. (*Note that it is stated that this is NOT enough for salvation)
Ephesians 2:9	Tells us we can't earn our salvation
James 2:22-23	Shows us that both a living faith and dead faith exists
James 2:26	Links Abraham's belief (Genesis 15) and obedience together as perfect faith.
James 2:24	Shows us without the death of Christ, we would not be able to be saved (forgiven)

10) a) The grace of God appeared and told us we were going to be saved with or without living godly (Titus 2:11-12 & Ephesians 2)

b) Works are not the basis of our salvation, the blood of Jesus Christ is. But can we be saved without them? (James 2:24-26)

\_\_\_\_\_ (refer back to II Thessalonians 1:8,9)

c) Read Titus 3:4-5. When he says "saved, not by works:", he is saying that the works didn't earn the blood of Christ, however he cannot be saying we'll be saved without them. Explain why:\_\_\_\_\_

d) How does he describe baptism? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12) Summarize the meaning of "salvation by faith." \_\_\_\_\_

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Jerry Blount 12/79 revised 6/05

