

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for May 1-2, 1999**

### **"Faith and Works"**

**Dale Whitehead**

Dead Faith (James 2:14-20)

Empty confession (James 2:14)

False Compassion (James 2:15-17)

Shallow Conviction (James 2:18-20)

Living Faith (James 2:21-26)

The verb (DIKAI00) which is translated "justified" has two general meanings:

(1) "To aquit, to pronounce, to declare as righteous." That is the sense which Paul almost always uses this term (Romans 3:24,28) and which forms the basis of what we call "the doctrine of justification."

(2) "To vindicate, or to prove righteous." It is used in this sense a number of times in the New Testament, in relation to God as well as men (Luke 7:35; Romans 3:4; 1 Timothy 3:16).

James is not outlining in his epistle the means of salvation, which of course is saving faith. But rather he is outlining in his epistle the outflow of true salvation which is the works of faith.

The first illustration of living faith is Abraham.

A living faith trusts God and His word and will therefore produce the works that are consistent with that faith, even if it is costly, and thereby prove itself to be genuine.

The verb "perfected" (ETELEIOTHE) means basically "to bring to an end , to bring to its goal."

"Fulfilled" clearly does not refer to a fulfillment of prophecy but rather a fulfillment of the principle that justification results in justification by works. They are tied together. What began in Genesis 15 is perfected and completed in Genesis 22.

The second illustration of living faith is Rahab.

Rahab stands in stark contrast to Abraham. She was a woman, a Gentile, and a prostitute. Abraham was a moral man; she was an immoral woman. He was a noble Chaldean; she was a degraded Canaanite. He was a great leader; she was a common citizen. He was at the top of the social-economic order; she was at the bottom.

As with Abraham and every other true believer, imputed righteousness based on faith resulted in practical righteousness reflected in good works.

Rahab's outward life of faithfulness manifested her inner life of faith.