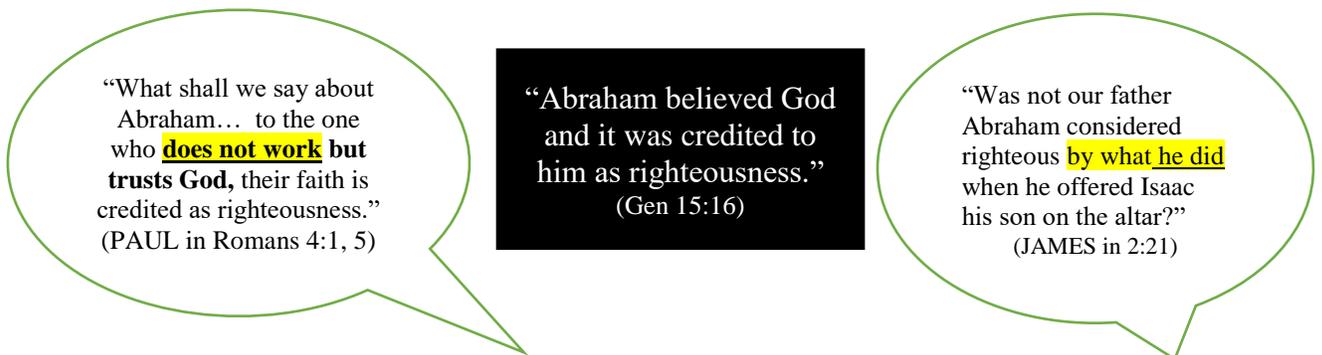


Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ October 29, 2017

#6 FAITHBOOK ~ *A Living Faith?* – Pt. 2 (James 2:14, 20-24, 26)

Examining what the book of James (*Faithbook*) teaches us about what faith is and how to strengthen it.

Opening: “Your Memories on Facebook” is a great way to remember how people and events from our past are shaping our future. An event 500 years ago this Tuesday has impacted our world and our life of faith when Martin Luther nailed his *95 Theses* to the Wittenberg Wall on October 31, 1517. All of this led to a re-discovery of the message of justification by faith and not works! But, for all of his vast contributions to the reformation of the church in true faith, even the great Reformer struggled with this passage from James and how it related to Paul’s teaching. Today, we’ll ask, “*What is the relationship between faith and good deeds?*” and consider the overall message of the Bible on how a person is made right with God.



BIG IDEA: We are saved by faith **alone**, but the faith that saves is never **alone** – it will be accompanied by works – a living faith!

❶ Abraham's faith was **REVEALED** as genuine by his actions. (James 2:21; Gen 22:12 & Heb 11:17-19)

Application: In what ways is your faith being *revealed* by your actions?

❷ Abraham's faith was **MATURED** by his actions. (James 2:22; 1:2-4)

Application: In what ways is your faith being *matured* by our actions?

❸ **THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM SHOWS...** “And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith *alone*.” (James 2:23-24).

Here's A QUIZ, which “faith formula” expresses the way you think of faith and deeds?

FAITH + DEEDS = SALVATION

FAITH = (SALVATION + DEEDS)



CONNECTION GROUPS at Living Faith Sermon-based Group Wednesday, Oct. 25 @ 2PM and 7PM

- ① We're going to spend some time in our group taking a little bit of time to watch a few sections from *Martin Luther* (1953): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAP-VfvCIAs>
 - A** Watch from 6:05 – 13:07. How would you characterize Luther's early view of God? How did Luther try to get right with God as a monk and then as a Priest? Why was Luther not satisfied with his religious life? Have you ever felt this way?
 - B** Watch 29L55 - 33:11. What factors ultimately sparked a radical change in Luther's outlook toward God and his relationship with God?
 - C** Watch 44:35 - 49:20. What was the purpose of Luther's 95 Theses? What was the reaction to them by different people in society?
 - D** Watch 1:16:12 – 1:19:15. How did Luther respond when asked to recant his writings? How should this logic and conviction still guide our thinking today? In what areas do you think we need this kind of Biblical conviction today?
- ② Why do you think Martin Luther had a hard time with the book of James? What is the primary point that James wants to emphasize about faith in using Abraham as an example in 2:20-24? How is Paul's emphasis different in Romans 4?
- ③ What are the two "faith formulas" that most people embrace? Which do you think is the most commonly accepted formula in our day? Was there a time you held a different formula than you do now? What changed your thinking?

MEMORY VERSE: James 2:26