JAMES—BY FAITH
UNDERSTANDING JUSTIFICATION FROM JAMES
JAMES 2:20-24 (Part II)

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: "There are in reality no degrees of justifying faith. Men either believe or they do not." R.V.G. Tasker, The General Epistle of James, p.69.

WORKS ARE THE GOAL. Works complete faith and brings faith to its goal. "God, who initially declared Abraham righteous in view of his faith (Gen. 15:6), had a great goal in view for that faith. That goal was that through faith Abraham should be brought into such intimate relations with God that he would voluntarily act to place God first in every area of his life. That goal was effectively attained through the events recorded in Genesis 22." D. Edmond Hiebert, The Epistle of James: Tests of a Living Faith, p. 194. (**James 2:20-22, fn 2:21-24, Genesis 15:6, fn 15:6, Genesis 22:1-18, fn 22:13, fn 22:15-18, Romans 3:28, fn 3:28, Ephesians 2:8-10, fn 2:8-10**) *If justification was the results of works, who would get the glory?*

WORKS ARE THE FULFILLMENT OF SCRIPTURE. "James' point is that where there is real faith, there will be an ineluctable outworking of it in life. *Genuine faith results in works.*" R. Kent Hughes, James: Faith That Works, p. 119. (**James 2:23a, James 2:17, fn 2:17, Hebrews 6:9-15, fn 6:10, Matthew 10:40-42, fn 10:42, Matthew 25:31-46, fn 25:34-40**) *How could your faith precede your godly works this week?*

WORKS ARE THE PROOF THAT YOU HAVE FAITH LIKE ABRAHAM. His faith was declared in **Genesis 15:6**, and his works were demonstrated in **Genesis 22**. Faith that works is proof of your intimacy with God and assurance that He calls you His friend. (**James 2:23b, Jeremiah 9:23, 24, fn 9:23, 24, I Peter 1:8, 9, fn 1:8, Philippians 3:10-14, fn 3:12-14, John 15:13-17, fn 15:15**) *How do you know if you are a friend of Jesus?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?