

**PAUL—BY FAITH**  
**UNDERSTANDING JUSTIFICATION FROM PAUL**  
**JAMES 2:20-24 (Part I)**

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

**BACKGROUND:** To enable you to have a personal relationship with Jesus, God gives you what you do not have—His righteousness! Quoting from the same Old Testament Scriptures as James, Paul shows that mankind’s justification has always been (and continues to be so) by faith alone. Faith is God’s gift to you. (**Ephesians 2:8**)

***YOU ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.*** “Justification is one act, and it is once and forever...in which God declares...that in Christ He regards us as if we had never sinned at all. He pronounces that we are just and righteous in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sins are forgiven, we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and God declares that.” D M. Lloyd-Jones, *Romans: Assurance (5)*, p.31. (**Romans 1:16, 17, fn 1:17, Romans 4:1-8, fn 4:4, fn 4:5, Genesis 15:6, fn 15:6, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21, Romans 4:22-5:2, fn 5:1**) *When the Lord looks at you, what does He see?*

***YOU ARE JUSTIFIED NOT BY WORKS.*** God’s plan of salvation is not by merit or reward for good behavior. To know God and fellowship with Him, you must possess His righteousness. God gives you His righteousness by faith alone in Christ alone, not because of your goodness or your good works. (**Romans 3:28, fn 3:28, Ephesians 2:8, 9, fn 2:8, 9, II Timothy 1:9, 10, fn 1:9, 10, Romans 11:6, fn 11:6, Galatians 2:11-21, fn 2:17-19**) *What is it that you, a believer, have that is necessary to fellowship with Jesus?*

***YOU DO THE WORK OF CHRIST.*** Filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, you do the work of Christ. Under the power of the Lord’s grace, the Holy Spirit works in and through you works that glorify the Lord Jesus. (**Ephesians 2:10, fn 2:8-10, Romans 1:5, fn 1:5, Romans 12:1, 2, fn 12:1, 2, Galatians 5:6, fn 5:6, Titus 2:11-14, Titus 3:8, fn 3:8, Ephesians 5:18**) *Why is it important to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to do Christ’s work?*

*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?*