



# Faith and Testing, Part 2

## The Test Marks of a Living Faith

**Main point:** Faith can be tested by its production of obedient, faithful works.

### Expositional Outline

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#### A. The shining illustration of Abraham (v.21-24)

<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.

<sup>24</sup> You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

#### B. The stunning illustration of Rahab (v.25)

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

#### C. The sobering conclusion (v.26)

<sup>26</sup> For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

### Interpretative discussion questions:

- Read Romans 3:24, 28; 4:1-2, 5; 5:1; Galatians 2:16; 3:8, 24; and Titus 3:7. Do these verses teach we are justified by faith or by works?
- What does it mean that Abraham and Rahab were justified by works?
- What kind of works visibly vindicate true salvation? Give chapter and verse.

### Applicational questions:

- Do I have a present trust in Christ for salvation?
- Is there evidence of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my heart?
- Do I see a long-term pattern of growth in my Christian life?
- Do I desire to share Christ with others, or am I ashamed of Him?
- Do I enjoy the fellowship of God’s people? Is worship a delight to me?
- Am I ready for the Lord’s return? Or will I be ashamed when He comes for me?

## Memory verse for lesson 10:

**James 2:26**—*“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”*



### Insights on Our Testing:

Keith Brazier

*“For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.”—Luke 6:43-44*

The world is constantly watching and judging the worth of Christianity and the attractiveness of Jesus Christ by what Christians do. Many profess the Lord as their rock and redeemer, yet yield spoiled fruit or none at all. By contrast, God’s people desire to be obedient and to do His will. They delight in performing works that are consistent with His Word. Faith works through love in spite of who you are—regardless of your flaws, your status, or how you started.

Your faith should act with obedience and urgency. Most likely, you will not be called to offer up someone you love as a living sacrifice (Abraham) or put your life on the line (Rahab), but surely, there will be cost. Perhaps, faith produced works will cost time, personal resources, sleep, or your comfort. Maybe, they will take you away from activities you would rather be doing. You may struggle with wanting to do something easier or less demanding. Are you guilty of living as if you do not know the truth? Does your struggle lie within the gap between your skill and your will? If so, that is a conscious choice—an option that the believer does not have the privilege to exercise. Regeneration not only gives the new creature the ability, but also transforms him so he will do what he was created to do.

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.