How Does Faith Work?

The Preview of Faith

•	James is writing to _	(Jam	es 1:1,	18)	١
	_		,	,	,

• It is unlikely that James is going to tell the audience _____ to become saved, but he will show us _____ saving faith looks like.

The "Problem" of Faith

- James 2²⁴ You see that a man is <u>justified</u> by <u>works</u> and not by <u>faith</u> alone.
- Romans 3²⁸ For we maintain that a man is <u>justified</u> by <u>faith</u> apart from <u>works</u> of the Law.

A Pretend Faith (James 2¹⁴ – 2¹⁷)

- 1. What use is that?
 - a. It is possible to ______ to have faith
 - b. The claim is ... someone says they have faith ... but they have no ______
 - c. That claim is _____
- 2. Is that faith able to save?
 - a. The Greek grammar assumes the answer is NO
- 3. Poorly clothed is the intended sense in this context
- 4. Middle voice for the commands implies contempt for the poor.
- 5. What use is that?
- 6. Even so ... faith without works is _____

The Product of Faith (James $2^{18} - 2^{19}$)

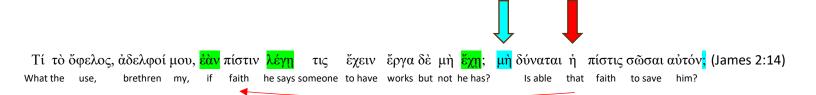
- James continues to argue his point via an imaginary opponent
- He issues the challenge ... _____ me!
- His use of the _____ tense implies those works will come after the faith.
- If you are, what you were, then you're not.
- True saving faith requires a proper response to the basic intellectual tenants of Christianity

The Proof of Faith (James $2^{20} - 2^{24}$)

- 1. Example of Abraham
 - A. When does James say Abraham was justified?
 - "when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar"
 - B. What was the result?
 - Faith was
 - C. Key phrase "and the Scripture was fulfilled ..."
 - James quotes Genesis 15:6 "it was reckoned to him as righteousness ..."
 - D. When does Paul say Abraham was justified?
 - He also quotes Genesis 15:6, but he says in Romans 3:28 that Abraham was
 - E. Central verse 2²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone Conclusion is ... Paul's use of "justify" is positional, that justification given to us with the new birth; James is using "justify" in the "proof is in the pudding" sense.
- 2. Example of Rahab

The Prolog (James 2²⁶)

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



Άβραὰμ ὁ πατὴρ ἡμῶν οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων ἐδικαιώθη ἀνενέγκας Ἰσαὰκ τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τὸ θυσιαστήριον; (James 2:21)

Lexical data for δικαιόω – I justify

- 1. to show, exhibit, one to be righteous (i. e. from their life, character, and deeds) James' use
- to declare, pronounce, one to be just, which never means to make worthy, but to judge worthy, to declare
 worthy, to treat as worthy; to declare guiltless one accused or who may be accused, acquitted of a charge or
 reproach Paul's use

Questions for Discussion:

- 1. Have you ever witnessed a false conversion? What led you to believe it was a false conversion?
- 2. Consider the argument from Sunday ...
 - a. When does James say Abraham was justified? James 2:21
 - b. When does Paul say Abraham was justified? Romans 4:1-12
 - c. How is this apparent "contradiction" resolved?
- 3. How does Paul's appeal to circumcision in Romans 4:10–11 help distinguish the difference in the use of "justify" by Paul and James? Is circumcision a work?
- 4. Get a volunteer or two to paraphrase James 2^{24} in their own words with explanation.