

Faith to do hard things
(Good works – Part 2) James 2:20-26

- I. **The patriarch Abraham** was proven righteous by his works – doing the hard thing when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac (James 2:20-24; Hebrews 11:17-19).
 1. Abraham's obedience to God (willing to sacrifice his son Isaac) showed that his faith was mature (2:21-22).
 - There are two kinds of "justification" – our eternal status (positional) and our active obedience (practical).
 - B. Abraham's initial faith was credited as "righteousness" in God's sight (Genesis 15:6), but his willing obedience showed his "righteousness" as God's friend (2:23-24, Romans 4:2-5).

- II. **The prostitute Rahab** was proven righteous by her works – doing the hard thing of standing alone for God (James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31).
 - A. Rahab trusted God when she protected the Israelite spies (2:25).
 - Rahab's sinful past did not limit her faith or her usefulness to God's plan
 - B. **Conclusion:** Faith without works is useless like a dead body is worthless (2:26).