

Pastoral Note:

“Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). Faith and works go together—they are inseparable. Faith comes first, then works issue forth. Faith is the root—godly works are the fruit. Christians do good works, but it is God’s Spirit who is at work in us making them possible. This is what Paul taught when he said we are to work out our salvation, knowing that God was the one working inside of us (Philippians 2:12-13).

Pastor Cliff

“Rahab’s Faith Worked” - James 2:24-26

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1. The theological foundation—all true believers will produce good works (2:24; cf. 1 Timothy 3:16).

“You understand then, that from works a person is ***shown to be righteous (vindicated)*** and not from faith only” (RLT; MLT)

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Ephesians 2:8-10).

2. The historical situation—Rahab’s faith worked (2:25; cf. Josh 2; 6:17-25).

“Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot, from works, ***shown to be righteous***, when she had received the messengers and sent them out by a different way?”

“By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient” (Hebrews 11:31).

3. The universal illustration—saving faith is supernatural (2:26).

“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead”

“faith...is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“faith comes by hearing...the Word of Christ” (Romans 10:17)

4. Saving faith _____ the sinner’s _____ (2:23b).

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