

# Practical Justification

## James 2:21-26

**Question:** Is the faith of a believer useful without good works? (2:14)

**Answer:** NO! (2:15-26)

**Argument #1 - Obvious Uselessness of Beliefs to Meet Practical Needs (2:15-17)**

**Argument #2 - Counter Example of Demons Shows The Uselessness of a Work-less Faith (2:18-20)**

**Argument #3 -  
Example of Abraham and His Active Faith (2:21-24)**

- a. v21 introduces the example of Abraham: he demonstrated a faith that is not dead by his active choices which \_\_\_\_\_ his faith in God.
  - “justified” (*dikaioō*) – (1) to show to be righteous (validate, vindicate, demonstrate); (2) to declare righteous (designate as righteous)
- b. v22 explains the connection between faith and works: Abraham’s faith (which came first and is invisible) and his works (which are plain to see, but flow from an invisible faith) were both needed in order for his faith to come to the \_\_\_\_\_ which God desires.
  - “made perfect” (*teleioō*) – to bring to the intended result; to bring to maturity
- c. v23 refers to (1) the invisible, initial faith of Abraham, and (2) the reality of Abraham’s close fellowship with God after he became a believer. These two elements are both needed for God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in your life to be realized.
  - 1) Invisible – Genesis 15:6 is quoted. Abraham believed God, and righteousness was \_\_\_\_\_ to his account—an invisible transaction between Abraham and God. (Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:1-5)
  - 2) Visible – Abraham demonstrated a nearness to the heart of God. “and he was called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” (Gen. 18:17-19; 2 Chron. 20:7; Is. 41:8)
- d. v24 concludes that a child of God must have both faith and works to demonstrate a useful faith which is \_\_\_\_\_ according to God’s designs. If you are satisfied with virtue signaling, you are far from God’s heart. (James 3:13, 4:8, 4:17)

Judicial Justification	Practical Justification
Romans 3:28 – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.” Romans 4:5 – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”	James 1:21-24 “Was not Abraham our father justified by works...? ...You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”
Cleared from ( <i>context clues in Romans</i> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “the _____ of God” (Rom. 1:18)</li> <li>• “God will judge the _____ of men” (Rom. 2:16)</li> </ul>	Cleared from ( <i>context clues in James</i> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “_____ yourselves” by hearing and not doing the word of God (Jas. 1:22)</li> <li>• lacking practical righteousness — “religion is useless” (Jas. 1:26)</li> <li>• living with a “dead” faith, which is a faith devoid of its practical _____ (Jas. 2:14-20)</li> </ul>
<b>Definition:</b> Declared _____ righteous; given a righteous standing before God at a _____ in time.  <b>What is required? faith _____</b>  <b>Who sees? God _____</b>  <b>Example of Abraham:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age—_____ or younger</li> <li>• Genesis 15:6 - “And he believed in the Lord, and <b>He _____ it to him for righteousness.</b>”</li> </ul>	<b>Definition:</b> Declared _____ righteous, demonstrating the righteousness of God _____ life.  <b>What is required? faith _____ works</b>  <b>Who sees? God _____ men</b>  <b>Example of Abraham:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age—over _____</li> <li>• Genesis 22 - “God _____ Abraham”</li> </ul>

**Argument #4 -****Example of Rahab and Her Active Faith (2:25)**

- In this sense Rahab was justified: she demonstrated her faith in God (Josh. 2:11) by doing something \_\_\_\_\_ (Josh. 2:4, 15) which revealed the condition of her heart.

**Argument #5 -****Conclusion Illustration — a Lifeless Corpse (2:26)**

- Paraphrase: A body without the spirit is \_\_\_\_\_; so also is a faith without works.
- Application: God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you, His child, to live out His purposes for you.

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**Key principle:** A child of God who is \_\_\_\_\_ God’s thoughts will be actively engaged in sacrificial service for others due to their love for people who are loved by God.