

James 2:20–24 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> *Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?* <sup>21</sup> *Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?* <sup>22</sup> *You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;* <sup>23</sup> *and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.* <sup>24</sup> *You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.*

**The faith that saves always produces good works and is based on God’s saving work in Jesus Christ.**

**Questions for Discussion/Application:**

How would you respond to someone who says the Bible has many contradictions?

How do you think through passages that seem to contradict one another?

How is James 2:20-24 consistent with Paul’s teaching on justification by faith alone?

What’s the difference between dead faith and living faith?

What’s the difference between works God approves and works that are an affront to Him?

What’s the danger of leaving the gospel out of a discussion on the works God requires?

What’s the difference between our initial justification and our justification on the last day?

What is the basis of your salvation? Why is it so crucial to know this truth?

What passages of Scripture would you point someone to in order to show them the kind of fruit God expects from His people?