

Faith and Deeds Part 1

“14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:14-26 KJV)

Here Apostle James was speaking about faith and deeds. Deeds are the works that must be associated with the faith that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Salvation is the gift from God to us, and we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord as we read here: ***“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*** * We are not saved by any good work that we had done but we are saved by the work of Jesus on the cross and His blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. * However, after we are saved we are called to do certain good works that God had prepared and had ordained for us to do. ***“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)***

Now, ***“14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” (James 22:14 KJV)*** If we are having faith but we are not doing the good works that God had ordained for us to do then such faith cannot save us. The faith that we speak, is in what we do to prove that we have such a faith in Christ.

Suppose, ***“15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” (James 2:15-16 KJV)*** Here the Apostle put a proposal, that if a brother or a sister is in need for daily food and dress, and one of us who is aware of their situation, spoke only kind words but contribute nothing to meet their basic needs, then what is the profit of such a faith. Food and dress they are mandatory need that man cannot live without them. * Notice here in ***James 2:15-16*** that the Word of God dictate on us what kind of help we need to offer to them, food and clothes and other basic things to meet their daily needs. * We are not obliged to meet other wants or meet other plans. We cannot use this Scripture to oblige the brethren to meet other needs apart from the essential basic needs.

Apostle John also wrote to us and taught us that our love toward the brethren should not by mere words but to be translated into actions and deeds as we read here, ***“17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:17-18 KJV)***

“17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:17-18 KJV) * Faith that is not accompanied and translated into actions is dead and is useless. You cannot show your faith without your works. We ought to show our faith by our works. * What works we do such works will reflect the kind of faith we have; whether in God through Jesus Christ our Lord or it is another kind of faith. Our deeds will show what kind of faith we have.

“19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2:19 KJV) There is only one God. Demons also believe in God but they don't do the works that God wants to be done. Demons will do the opposite of God's work and will do the harmful things that are against God's will.

“20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:20 KJV) If you said you have faith, but there are no works of God accompanying that faith then such kind of faith is dead because it has no action.

“21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:21-24 KJV) Here Apostle James bringing us to the faith of Abraham, how his faith was accompanied by works; and that faith accomplished the good works that Abraham did. The faith of Abraham was perfected by the works that he had done toward God. That works of Abraham showed that he truly believed in God, and for this reason he was considered and was called the friend of God. * What we can understand here, is that when we do the works of God we shall be considered and called the friends of God. * Are you elated and glad to be called the friends of God? If your answer is 'Yes', then you need to do the good works which God had before ordained that you should walk in them.

Let us start to study now the works of Abraham and what he did so that he was called the friend of God. We study that and reflect on what he did to learn principles so we can understand what duties and responsibilities are put on us to do toward God.

God called Abraham to get out from his country, from his tribe and from his father's house. God asked him to leave all the above to go to a place that He will show him later on. Abram obeyed God and left all what God had told him to leave in order to go to the new land that God will show to him. In the same way, when God save us from our sins and gave us eternal life, God is calling us to come out from all what is belong to our culture, tradition, family ties, and from ties and relationships with people in the world that contradict the Word of God. To fulfill

the call of God in our lives we need to obey God as Abram did and left his country, tribe and his father house in order to go to the new land. **The eternal life is the new eternal place that God promised to us, and in order to reach there we are called to leave all things that hold us in this world that are contradict to the Word of God and the will of God. * We need to leave idols, sinful acts and to live away from sin, and to move away from doing our own will and plans that contradict the plan of God and the will of God for us in our lives. We need to move away from cultural and traditional practices that contradict the Word of God and His will.**

Jesus mentioned to the Pharisees who were arguing with Him that if they were the children of Abraham they should be doing the works of Abraham: ***“They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.” (John 8:39 KJV)*** Truly if Abraham is our spiritual father, we need to learn from the life of Abraham the good things that he did to God. Notice that Abraham did works, so we need to do works[so multiple achievements is expected from each and every one of us.

To understand the works that Abraham did unto God we need to read the Scripture that will teach us what works Abraham did. In addition to the Old Testament we can read about the calling of Abraham in the New Testament, in the book of Acts from the sermon of Stephen, ***“2 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, 3 And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. 4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.” (Acts 7:2-4 KJV)*** We will read now about Haran in *Genesis 11* as we read before his story in *Genesis 12* of how Abram continued to the promise land:

“26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. 27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. 28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. 29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child. 31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. 32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran. 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.” (Genesis 11:26-32, Genesis 12:1-4 KJV) Charran in *Acts 7* is the same of Haran in *Genesis 11*. So we understand here that according to *Acts 7* God first called Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia that was in Ur of the Chaldees, while in *Genesis 12* God called Abram after He mentioned that he reached Haran.

In *Genesis 11* mentioned in verse **31** that Terah the father of Abraham took Abram and his wife Sarah and his grandson Lot the son of Haran the son of Terah; he took them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan. Now, could be that God was calling also Terah with Abram? Or it was Abram who was trying to impart the call of God to his father and motivate his father to move towards Canaan, to the land that God wants them to move? Let us ponder more

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:” (Genesis 12:1 KJV) When God said to Abram, ***“Get thee out of thy country”***, which means Ur of the Chaldeans, and also to get out of Haran even after they reached there and did not continue. Both Ur and Haran are part of Mesopotamia, the country of Abram, but they were far from one another. God wanted Abram to come out from his country because of the idols that they were worshipping; Ur means ‘**flame**’, which was a city in southern Babylonia, city of the Chaldeans, and centre of moon worship. Joshua confirmed that they had gods and worshipped and served them as we can conclude from here, ***“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15 KJV)*** It mentioned here gods, so not only the moon but also the sun and other starry hosts, that is why when the idol worship was so intense in that place, it was in the best interest for Abram to move out from his country so he will not be pulled back and polluted with such. **Also it is the best interest for you to leave all the idols and the religion of your father's house, and what you were born in, and to be born again and start to follow God.**

God also said to Abram, ***“and from thy kindred”***; now the place that God wanted Abram to reach was Canaan and in it there was also idols worship; but what were not there was his kindred who might have influenced him to go back to idol worship. So God wanted Abram to leave even his relatives who may influence him to go back to worship and serve idols. It might be when Abram first left Ur with all his family including his father Terah and his brother Nahor and his family, their faith was different from Abram's, therefore after the death of his father Terah, Abram needed to leave even his brother Nahor with his family in Haran, in order to be totally away from their idols and their influences on him. It mentioned in *Genesis 11* verse **32** that Terah died in Haran so he did not move toward the new land that God instructed Abram to move. So when we read in *Genesis 12* that God asked Abram to ***“Get thee out from thy father's house”***, in *Genesis 12:1*, it was after the death of his father as Stephen confirmed that as we read here, ***“Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.” (Acts 7:3 KJV)*** It might be there was much struggle for Abram to leave the culture, the tradition and the religion and the faith of his father, and that struggle was end up with the death of Terah, the father of Abram. **Here was the works of Abram and that what God was expecting from Abram and from us to do; to leave the relatives and the relationships and the family ties of our family members so they will not influence our faith in God and what He wants us to do for Him and His glory. As well as we need to leave the culture, the religion and the practices that contradicts God's will and His plan in our lives. Traditions of the families are the sinful practices that do not go along the Word of God and God wants us to move away from such sinful practices.**

God also said to Abram, ***“and from thy father's house”***, that goes along the calling of God to Abram the second time while he was in Haran and not in Ur, because Stephen in *Acts 7* did not mention that Abram left his father's house when he left Ur, ***“Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.” (Acts 7:3)*** So God called Abram again while he was in Haran after the death of his father, or he reminded him to do what he had asked him to do in order to come out completely from the idols of his father's house. Abram kept that particular command of God, for he even instructed that his son Isaac should not go back even to Haran, for the purpose of marriage, ***“And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.” (Genesis 24:6 KJV)*** Further more we can see clearly the evidence of idol worship in the kindred of Abram in the idols of Laban that Rachel stolen from her father, ***“Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not.” (Genesis 31:34 KJV)*** So truly if we want to obey God fully we need to do all what Abraham did in order to leave the idol worship and the sinful traditional, cultural and the religious practices that we were in and to do all what we can in order to protect our children and grand children not to get involved in such idols and sinful practices that are against God.

God told Abraham to go, ***“unto a land that I will shew thee”***: That land was the land of Canaan that God would show Abram later on. Although it was said in *Genesis 11* that they will go to Canaan after they left Ur, as well as the same said in *Genesis 12:5*, but when Abram left Haran, he did not know the place that God will take him to as the writer of Hebrews tells us, ***“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” (Hebrews 11:8)*** So it means when Abram obeyed God and went out from Ur and later on from Haran he did not know to which place God would take him. **This example of Abram is a good teaching for us today that we need to obey God and follow what He says to us even before we receive. Many say to God give me first then I will follow you, but what we learn from Abram that he followed God even before he received and even he obeyed God before he knew where God would take him. He did that, because he trusted and believed on what God had said. The same we should do in our lives to please God, in obeying his voice and in walking in his ways.**

Abram obeyed God and took his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot with him and the souls that they got in Haran, ***“5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.” (Genesis 12:5 KJV)*** **To do the works of Abraham as Jesus mentioned in *John 8:39*, we need to motivate our family members and our relatives and whoever around us to follow the plan of God that He reveal to us. Jesus wants us to share His plan of salvation to all the people that we are allowed to meet while we are passing our journey on earth waiting for Him to come, or take us.**

“8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:8-10 KJV) Abraham obeyed God and he went out from his place, not knowing where he will go and where God would lead him. Most likely he was stable in his life and living. Settled in a house and with

good facility, but when God called him, by faith and obedience, was willing to leave all the comfort that he was having in Haran for the sake of obeying God. He went out to the new place that the Lord was leading him to sojourning. Notice here that Abraham left living in a settled house as God asked him to leave his father's house and went sojourning which means moving from place to place and living in tents. Not only he, but also his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob lived in tents. They suffered in living the style of life that God had asked them to live. They were able to live and suffer such because they were looking ***“for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”*** They were looking to live with God forever in a city build by God and this is for us today is the new Jerusalem that will come out of Heaven from God as we read here, ***“9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;” (Revelation 21:9-11 KJV)*** **In the same way, we need to be willing to suffer on earth, willing to leave our comfort zones and the comfortable things, willing to obey God the Father, the Creator, trusting Him that His plans are better than our plans.**

My dear and beloved: Let us repent now and come to the Lord and allow him to examine us and find out sins and things that contradict the Word of God and His will as it is explained to us in this message. Let us also be convicted with the works and the deeds that God is ordaining for us to do, ***“26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26 KJV)***

Let us come now to the Lord and be willing to dedicate ourselves and start to do the good works that God and His Christ wants us to achieve while we are sojourning on earth waiting for Him to come and take us.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching that you give to me to make your calling and what you wants me to do for you clear.

Repent and renounce qll your sins. Renounce all the idols, the traditional practices and the religious practices that linked to your old life. Repent of your lack of faith and lack of trust in God. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to come out from all the following idols, traditional and religious practices that are against your will and your plan _____.

Lord I commit myself to do the following good works that you had showed me to do for you and to serve you _____.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to serve you and to do the good works that you had prepared for them to do. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord solve their problems and continue to guide so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people. Lord lead us to help those who are in need. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Faith and Deeds Part 1. James 2:14-26. Ephesians 2:8-10. 1 John 3:17-18. Genesis 12:1-5. John 8:39. Acts 7:2-4. Genesis 11:26-32. Joshua 24:15. Genesis 24:6. Genesis 31:34. Hebrews 11:8-10. Revelation 21:9-11.

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