

# The Soul Winner's Manual

## LECTURE 9 OUTLINE BY RALPH "YANKEE" ARNOLD

### FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

How would you answer a man who says, "But don't you know that the Bible says, 'Ye are justified by works, and not by faith only'? Does the Bible say that? *Yes, it does.*

"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (**James 2:14**). "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Issac his son upon the altar?" (**James 2:21**).

Yes, he was, and no, he wasn't! **Romans 4:2** says, "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory: BUT NOT BEFORE GOD." Abraham was not justified by works, BEFORE GOD, for **SALVATION**. How was he justified (declared righteous)? "For what saith the scripture? **"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness"** (Romans 4:3). Good works would not take away his sin and make him righteous. Abraham received Christ's righteousness when he believed. He was justified (declared righteous) when he believed.

"Now to him that **worketh is the reward** not reckoned of grace, but of **debt**" (Romans 4:4). If we could earn God's righteousness, then He would be in debt to us. He would owe it to us because we would deserve it. Abraham could "glory", could brag, if works before God justified him.

Can a person earn God's righteousness by working for it? "But to him that **WORKETH NOT**, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God **imputeth righteousness WITHOUT WORKS** saying, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered" (**Romans 4:5-7**).

God give His righteousness only to those who do not work for it, but instead put their faith in Christ. Romans 4, speaks of sins being forgiven and being given God's righteousness by faith. That is **SALVATION**.

ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE  
FOR **SALVATION**

ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH AND WORKS  
FOR **SERVICE**

"Was not Abraham our father justified by works, **when** he had **offered** Issac his son upon the altar?" (**James 2:21**). Yes, Abraham was justified by works, but NOT for salvation! **Romans 4** is talking about Salvation. **James 2** is talking about Service.

**James 2:1** says, "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons." James 2 is talking to believers (brethren). Verses 12 and 13 say, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that *shall be judged* by the law of liberty. For He shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment." **Yes, every believer shall be judged-not for *salvation*, but for *rewards*.**

He will be judged for what he has said and done. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (**II Corinthians 5:10**).

"**If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a REWARD**" (**I Corinthians 3:14**). James 2 is speaking to believers about what they say and do with their life now that he is saved.

**Romans 4 speaks of God's righteousness received as a gift-  
James 2 speaks of rewards earned by works.**

**James 2** goes on to say in verses 14-16, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 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?"

Your whole life revolves around profit and loss-and James 2 is talking about *the Christian life*. What profit-what *reward*-will you gain from your Christian life if you have faith and no works? None! Can your faith save you? Save you from what? *Loss of rewards* at the judgment seat!

**No**, it cannot save you from the chastening hand of God in this present life. You will lose rewards that you could have earned, but you cannot lose rewards that have already been laid up in Heaven. **Mat 10:42**, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, **he shall in no wise lose his reward.**"

The word "save" in the Bible does not always refer to *eternal* salvation. The word save means to deliver or rescue-and there are other things to be delivered from other than eternity in hell. Paul said, "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved" (**Acts 27:31**). He meant their physical lives would be lost unless they stayed in the ship.

A believer may "save his life"-*deliver it from loss* by serving Christ. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's the same shall save it. For WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul" (**Mark 8:35, 36**).

The word "soul" in Mark 8:36 is translated from the same Greek word as the word "life" in Mark 8:35. The word soul means life. These two verses ask the same question as James does: What does it profit you if you do not live your life for the Lord? You will have *no* profit-you will suffer *loss* of reward!

***Faith alone* will save you from hell, but faith alone cannot save you  
from loss of rewards, your placement on the shelf, or your present chastisement.**

**Matthew 6:19, 20** says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

Only a *believer* can use his time-life here on earth-to lay up treasure in heaven. He does that by serving the Lord. The more you yield to the Lord the more the Lord rewards you will receive. He will tell you everything to do through the study of Biblical principles.

Your rewards will be in proportion to your obedience to God. Someone may say, "Think of all the good things you're missing out on here on earth." Whatever I've missed out on earth by serving Christ I didn't need. When we get to heaven, we will find out *who really missed out!* Whatever you have here on earth is only temporary.

"Well, I've gained the whole world!" Yes, you've gained it, only to lose it! So what has it profited you? Any man who knows Christ as his Savior and will not serve the Lord has a wasted life; I care not what he lives for! I don't care how much he accumulates; he is wasting his life if he is not laying up treasures in heaven.

You cannot lose what you lay up in heaven. But a Christian can lose *what he could have had*. God knows your potential and what you could have done. You might be surprised at what you've already forfeited *for all eternity!* Faith without works will save you from hell, but faith without works will not profit you here or hereafter.

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (**James 2:17**). Dead does not mean unsaved or condemned. How can faith be dead? Dead is the Greek word nekros which means USELESS or BARREN. A dead battery in a car is a useless battery! It still exists, but it does not work, it is useless.

Faith without works is useless! "I know you are starving, brother, but have faith in God. He will help you!" There you have at home all the food they need. Your faith is useless; it hasn't helped those who were starving! You must couple works with your faith to serve God, in order to be *useful* in helping others whether saved or lost.

James has one of the clearest teachings in the Bible on the Christian life. Have you ever heard someone say, "I'll live my Christian life by faith that the Lord will do it all!" They sound like the Christian in James 2:15, 16 who tell those in need, "Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled", expecting the Lord to drop food out of the sky when the Lord wants to use *him* to provide it! *By faith you obey the Lord.*

You believe His Word and get to work! David believed the Lord would deliver him out of the hand of Goliath (**I Samuel 17:46**). Did David sit back and say, "Okay, Lord, You kill Goliath!" No! He coupled his faith *with works*. He ran out to meet him with his slingshot, killed him, and cut his head off!

By faith David OBEYED. The Christian life is obedience to God. It is by faith. You wouldn't obey God if you didn't believe Him! It is also by works, and you will be rewarded for *your work* at the judgment seat of Christ. If the Holy Spirit is the only One who does the work, then He should be the only one rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ!

Without works, your faith is useless *as far as service is concerned*, **because the Lord does not do it all!** Satan's lie to the lost is faith + works for salvation, for he knows that works cannot save a man. Satan's lie to the saved is faith is all that is needed to serve the Lord: "Let the Lord do it all".

The saved man thus feels no responsibility, becomes lazy, and the job of winning the lost does not get done. "We don't need any Sunday school teachers, we're going to let the Holy Spirit teach the classes! We're going to let the Lord do it all!" How much do you think will get done when the Lord leaves us here to serve him believing that?

God commands His children to work! "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the **WORK** of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (**I Corinthians 15:58**).

"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*" (**James 2:18**). What is the issue? **It is your faith being shown outwardly to others.** You show people your faith by the works you do. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (**James 2:19, 20**) What are you DOING with what you know and believe? If you are doing nothing, your faith is useless, for HOW WILL OTHERS KNOW?

"Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Issac upon the altar?" (**James 2:21**). There is no mention here of salvation or of receiving God's righteousness. Abraham was justified by faith before God. "His faith was counted for righteousness" (**Romans 4:5**). Abraham was justified by works in whose sight?

The next verse tells us,

"**SEEST THOU** how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect?" Verse 24 tells us, "**YE SEE** then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Works in the sight of men justified Abraham. God asked him to sacrifice his son Issac, yet Abraham knew God had *promised* him seed through Issac (**Genesis 17:19**).

Issac had no children yet, so how could he have seed if he died? "*By faith* Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Issac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. Of whom it was said, That in Issac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead." (**Hebrews 11:17, 18**).

James is not talking about having faith for salvation. He is speaking about *your faith being shown to others*. Abraham took two men with him when he went to sacrifice Issac. Those two men could see the place "afar off" where Issac was to be sacrificed. Abraham told them, "Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, *and come again to you*" (**Genesis 22:5**).

How could Issac come back if he was going to die? Abraham had faith that God would raise him from the dead. He proved his faith to the two men by preparing to sacrifice Issac. He proved his faith to Issac also. Issac wondered where the lamb was for the sacrifice! Abraham answered, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt-offering" (**Genesis 22:8**). **He did not say that God would provide a lamb, but that God would provide Himself a Lamb!**

Abraham trusted in God for his salvation, and he proved he had this faith to these two men and to Issac. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, **when** he had **offered** Issac his son upon the altar?" (**James 2:21**).

Remember, you are not justified by works for service before man alone, but God and man.

If you have no works, *other people cannot see your faith*. It is faith alone apart from works that saved you from hell. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **WITHOUT** the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28).

What profit is there in gaining a world that will pass away while losing *eternal* rewards? Faith and works will profit you and others, but faith and works cannot earn you eternal life!

**SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD.**