



faith that
WORKS
A STUDY IN JAMES

James 2:20-26

Justification:

“An instantaneous legal act of God in which He
1. thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s
righteousness as belonging to us, and 2. declared
us to be righteous in His sight” (Grudem)



1. It is **Instantaneous**
2. It is **Legal**
3. It is an **Act of God**
4. It is **by Imputation**
5. It is a **Declaration**



James:

2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

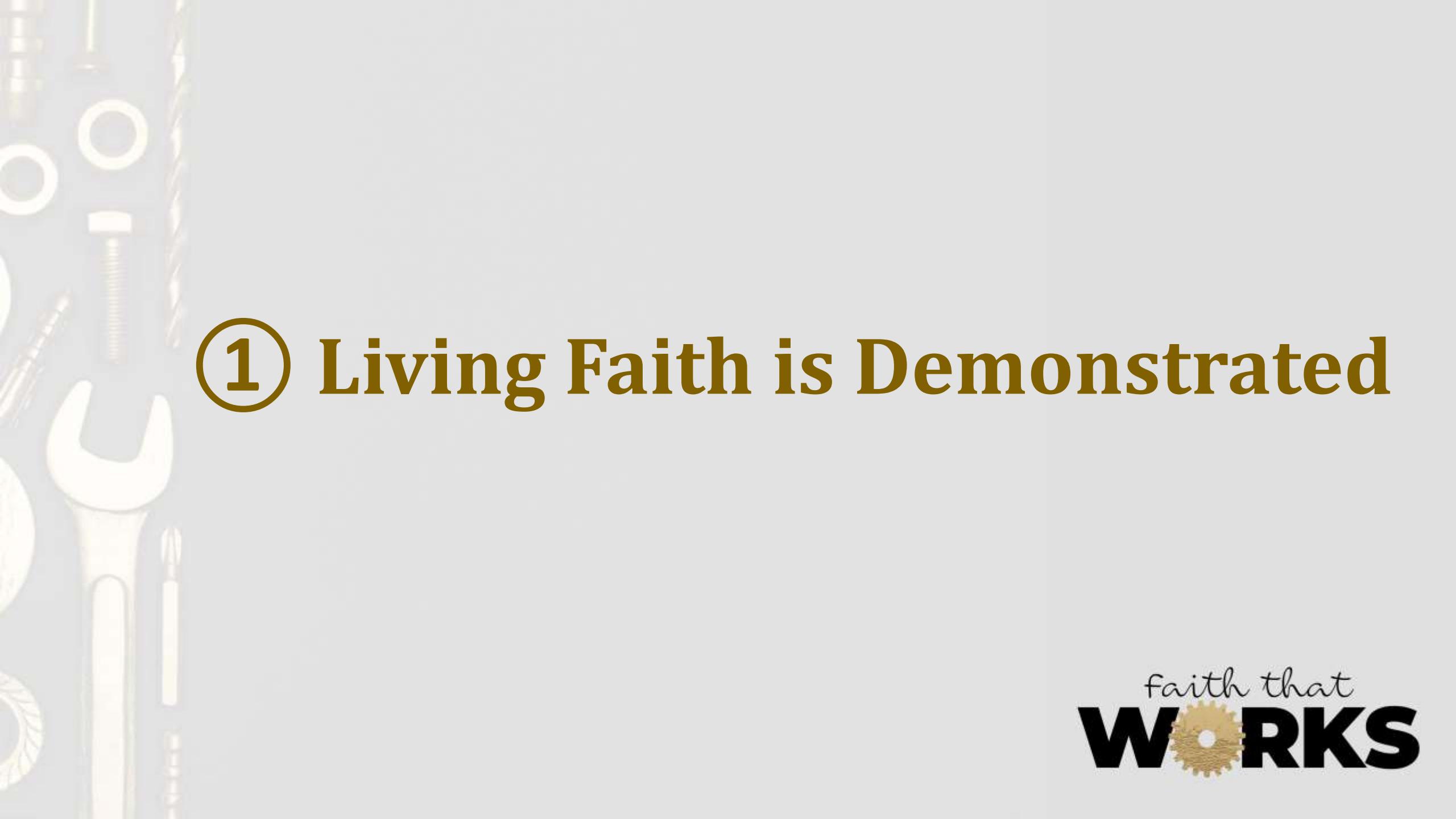
Paul:

Romans 3:38 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Galatians 2:16 'we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.'

faith that
WORKS

Category	James 2:14–26	Paul (Galatians 2:16)
Primary Concern	False faith that produces no obedience	False confidence in works of the Law
Problem Addressed	Antinomianism (belief w/o obedience)	Legalism (works-based salvation)
Key Question	<i>What kind of faith saves?</i>	<i>How is a sinner made right with God?</i>
Meaning of “Works”	Works of obedience flowing from faith	Works of the Law as a means of justification
Meaning of “Justified”	Shown to be righteous	Declared righteous before God
Meaning of “Faith”	Faith Alone (only a claim)	Faith Alone (not caused by works of law)
Audience	Professing believers in the church	Sinners seeking justification before God
Timeframe in View	After conversion (ongoing life of faith)	At conversion (initial justification)
Example Used	Abraham offering Isaac (Gen. 22)	Abraham believing God (Gen. 15:6)
Outcome Emphasized	Living, fruitful faith	Free, gracious justification
Summary Statement	“Faith apart from works is dead”	“Justified by faith apart from works”

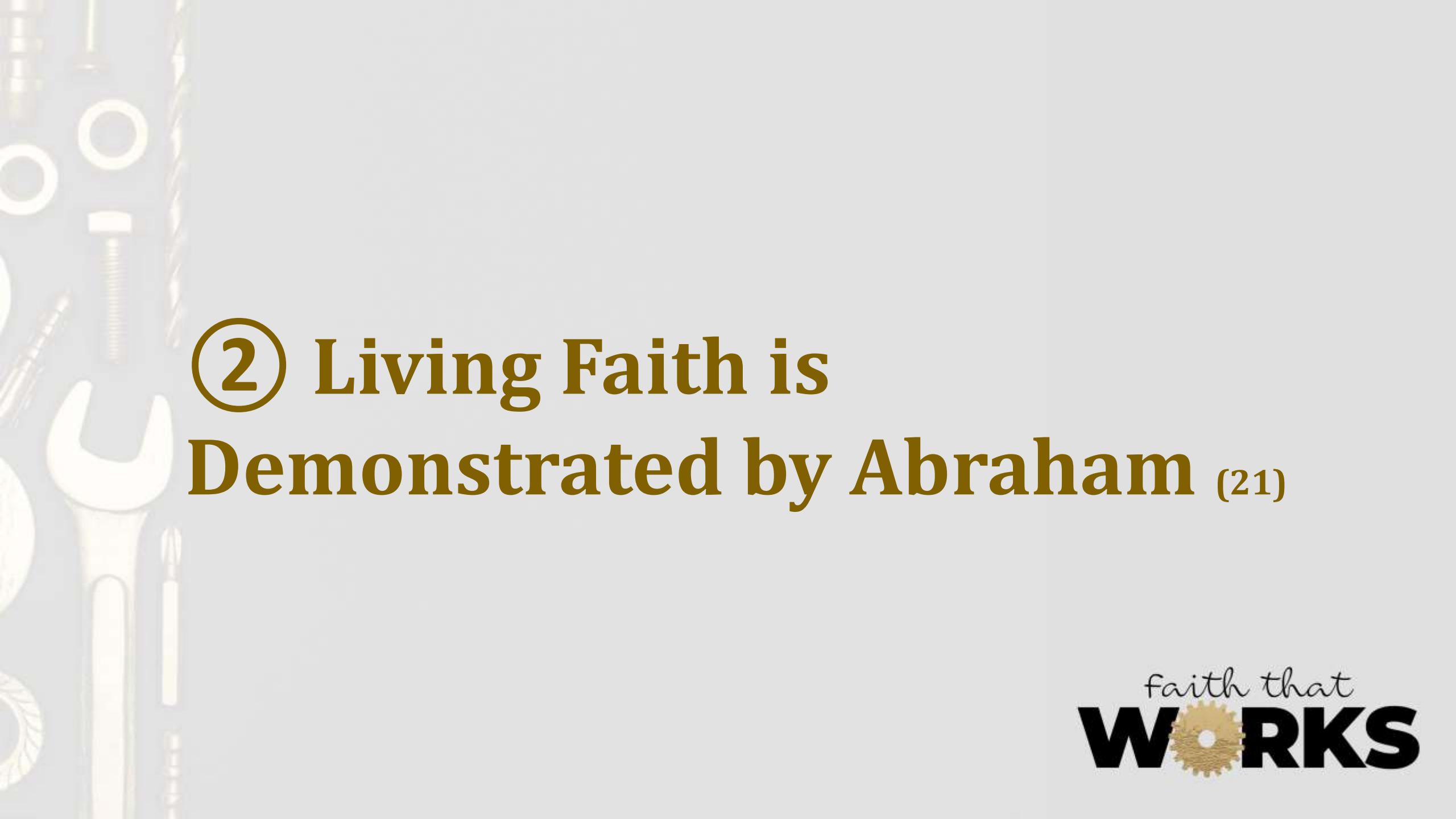


① Living Faith is Demonstrated



1. Unseen Faith is **Foolish**
2. Unseen Faith is **Useless**

faith that
WORKS



② Living Faith is Demonstrated by Abraham (21)



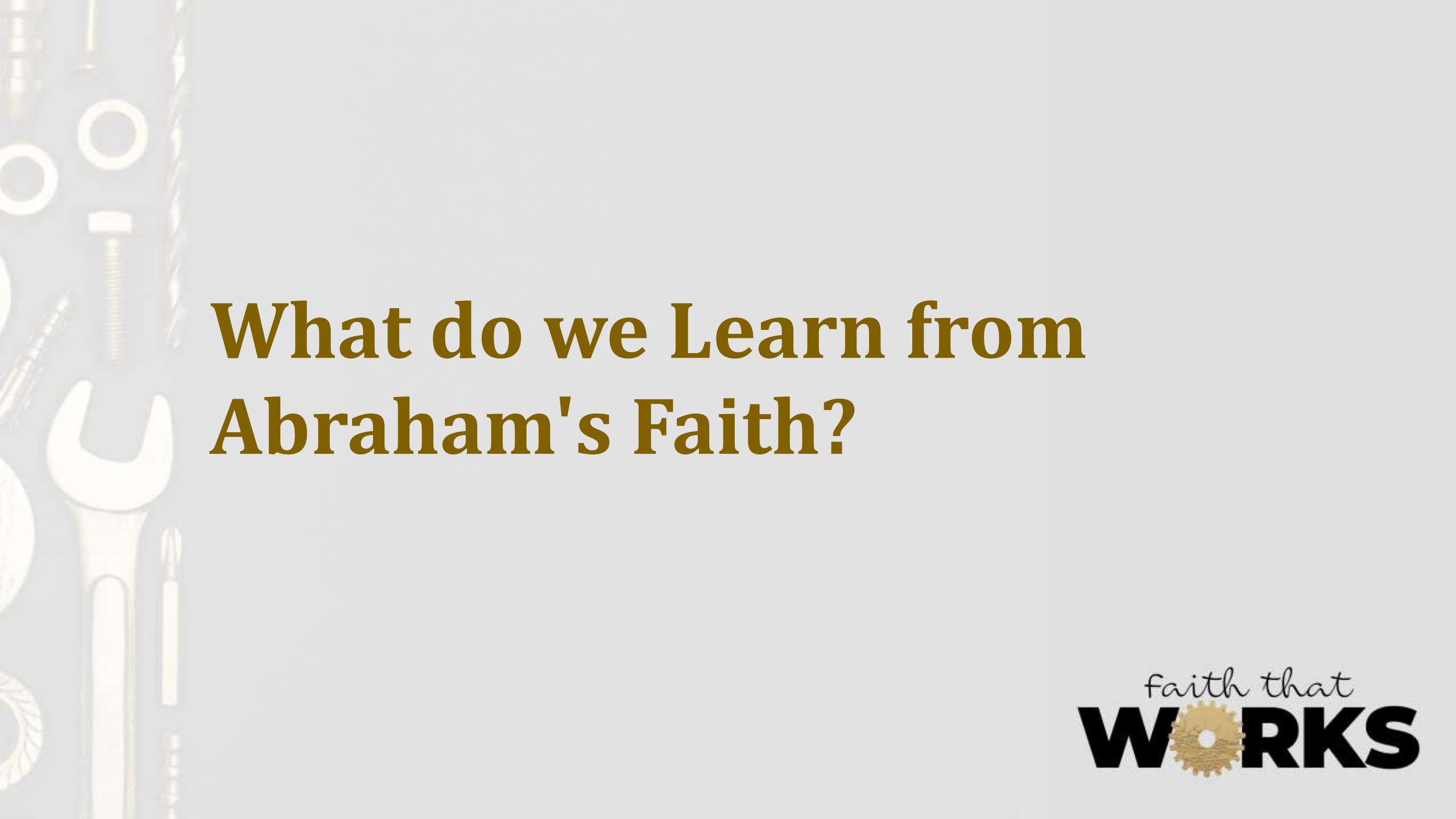
1. Abraham is the **Archetype of Faith**
2. Abraham is **Our Father**



3. Abraham was **Justified by Faith**
4. Abraham was ***Proven Justified by his Works***



1. Gen. 22 was **30 years after Gen 15**
2. Gen. 22 was a **Test of Faith**
3. Gen. 22 was a **Confirmation of Faith**
4. Gen. 22 was a **Pointer to Jesus**



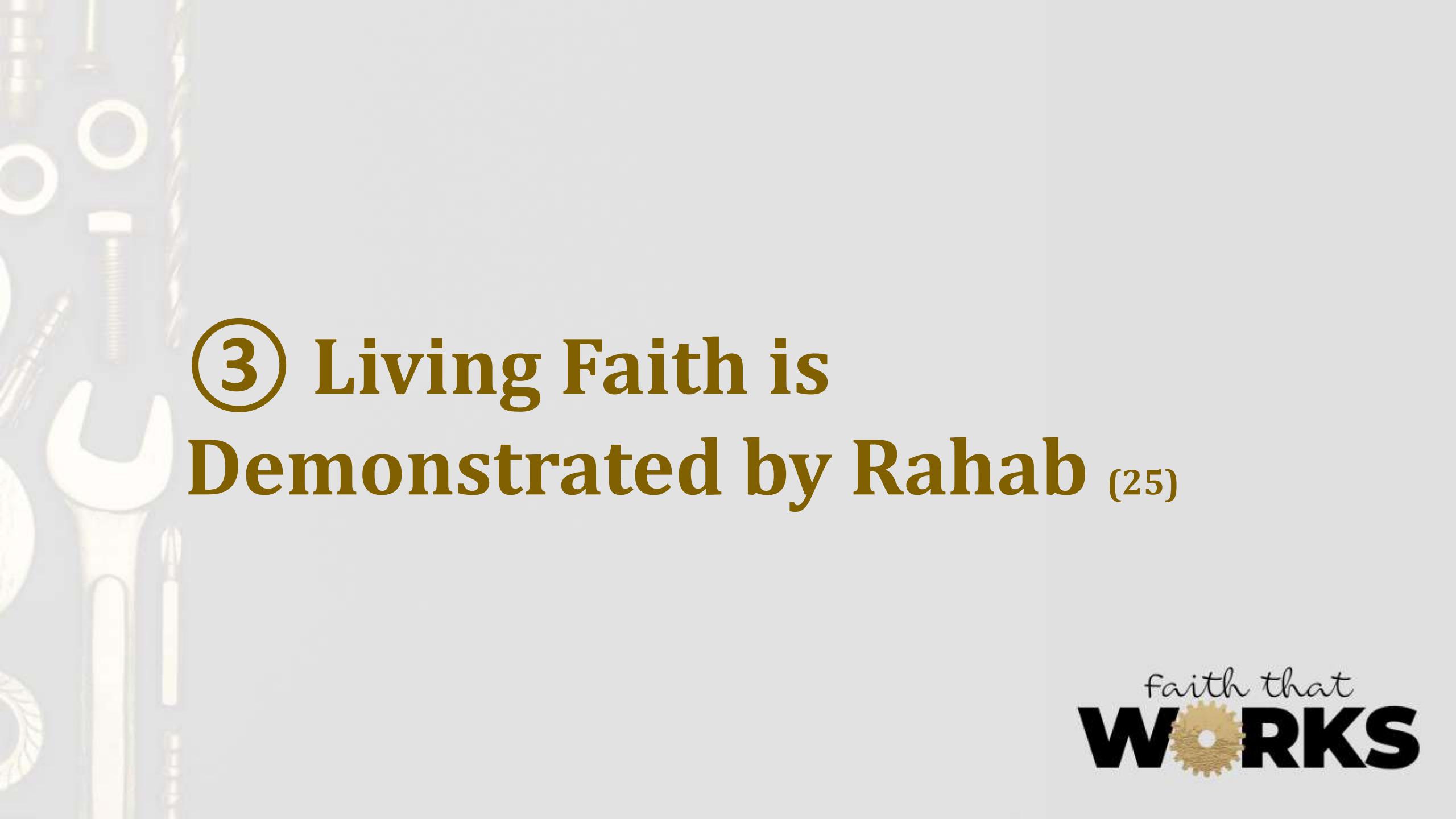
What do we Learn from Abraham's Faith?



1. It was an **Active Faith**
2. It was a **Completed Faith**
3. It was a **Fulfillment of Scripture**



4. It was **Based on a Personal Relationship with God**
5. It was **Justifying Faith**



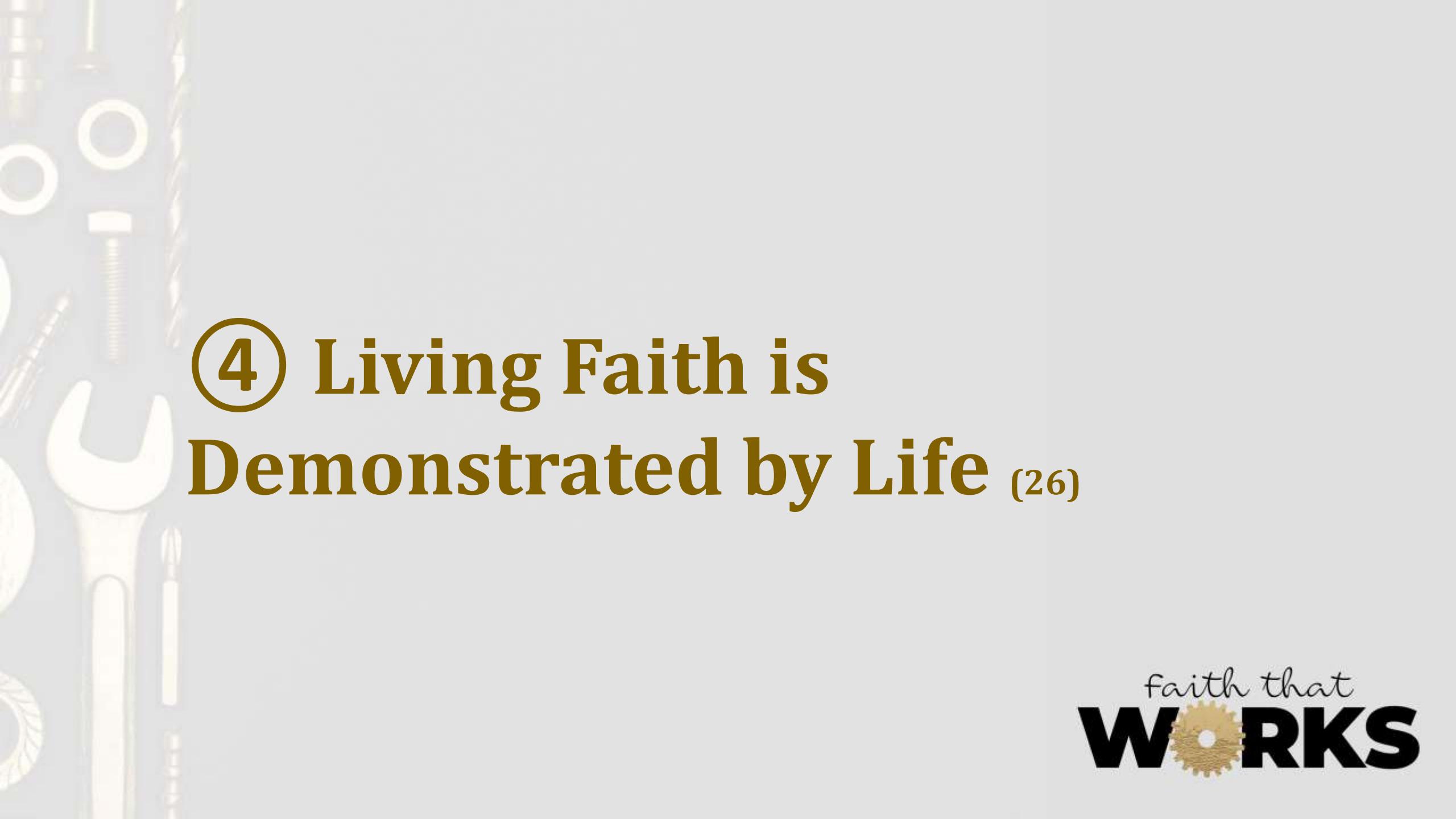
③ Living Faith is Demonstrated by Rahab (25)



1. She was **Justified because she Believed**
2. She was **Justified like Abraham**



3. She was **Justified because she Demonstrated her Faith**
4. She was **Blessed by God**



④ Living Faith is Demonstrated by Life (26)

Application:

faith that
WORKS