

SOLA FIDE – FAITH ALONE

Romans 1:16-17; Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 3:7-8; James 2:18

4. Abraham demonstrates the positive side of James's principle. What actions in his life as described in Hebrews 11:8-19 show that he had faith in God?

"We are pronounced righteous solely by faith alone in Christ, not by the works of the law or by love, And, it should be the first concern of every Christian to lay aside all confidence in works and grow in the knowledge, not of works, but of Christ Jesus, who suffered and rose for them"

- Martin Luther

Romans 1:16-17 – Justified by God's righteousness.

Application

5. Look into your life. Tell us a little bit about an incident where you showed by your actions that you had faith in God. Or, are you willing to share with the group a time when your actions made you a "practical atheist," that is, you behaved as if you didn't believe God?

Luke 18:9-14 Justifying faith seeks mercy.

Philippians 3:7-9 Faith alone is not Faith **that is** alone.

Faith alone unites us with Christ

Faith alone produces good Works

Getting to Know Me

1. Think of someone that God brought into your life who showed faith by their actions. Tell the group what they did and how it led you to a faith that works.

Into the Bible

2. James says that we show that we have faith by what we do. Read Genesis 3:1-7. Satan makes three accusations against the character of God. How does the action of Adam and Eve in eating the fruit show their lack of faith in God's character?

3. Read Hebrews 11:1-6. Verse 1 is sometimes called a definition of faith, but it is really a description. Abel is commended for his faith that was demonstrated by bringing an acceptable sacrifice. Now, go to the original story in Genesis 4:2-24. Abel's acceptable sacrifice is described in one verse (4) while the rest of the chapter is about Cain's unacceptable sacrifice. Write down your thoughts about how Cain's actions (and those of his descendants) show an increasing lack of faith in God.