

THE FAITH THAT SAVES

(FAITH CANNOT SAVE THE DISOBEDIENT)

JAMES 2:14-26

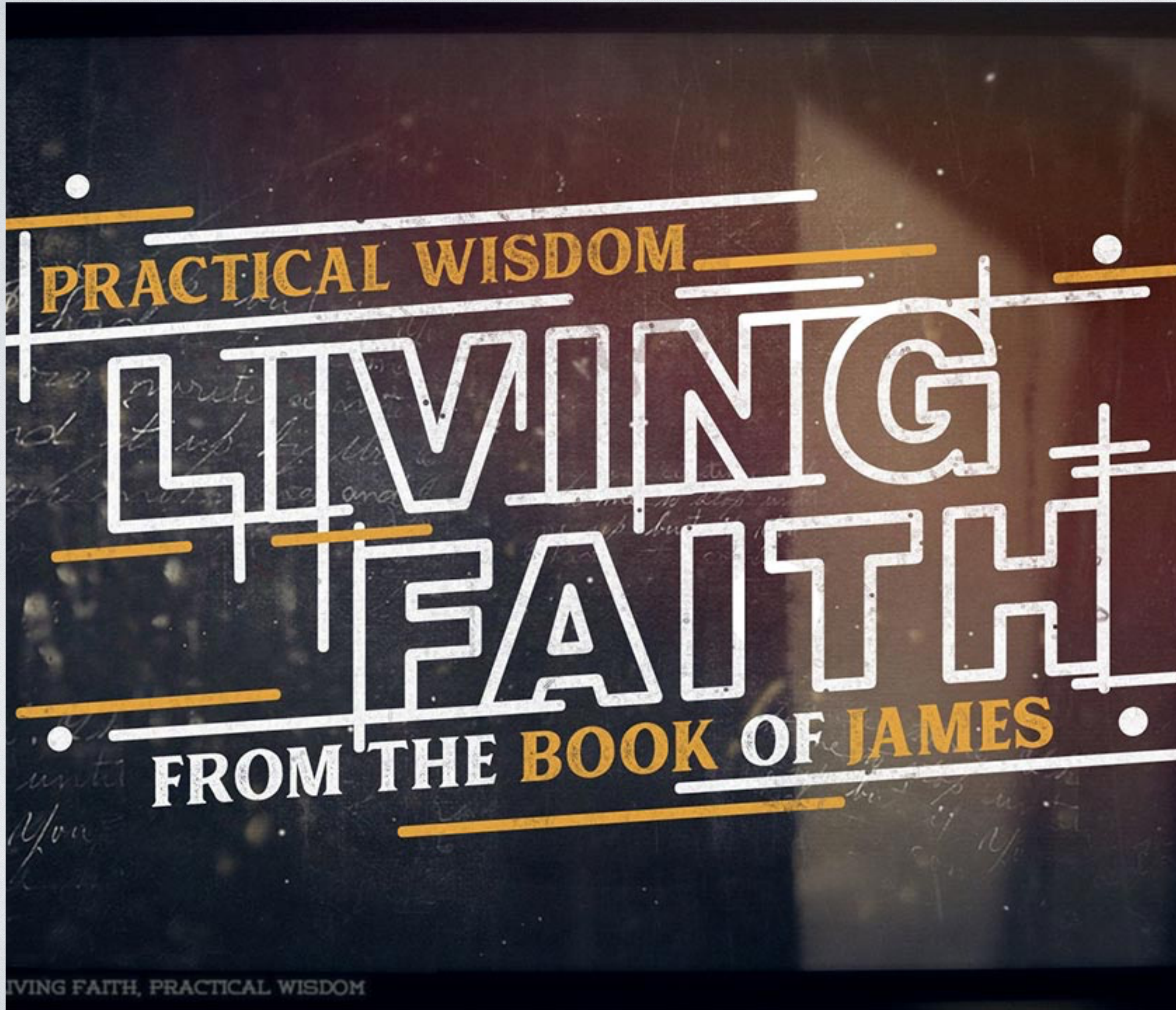
FAITH

WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. (James 2:24 - NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM



- **TRIALS** (1:2-12)
- **TEMPTATION** (1:13-16)
- WE MUST BE **DOERS OF THE WORD** - (1:17-27)
- THE SIN OF **PARTIALITY** (2:1-13)
- SAVING FAITH IS AN **OBEDIENT FAITH** — FAITH VOID OF OBEDIENCE DOES NOT SAVE (2:14-26)



The
NATURE
of
SAVING
FAITH

James 2:14-26

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

James 2:14–26 (NKJV)

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

James 2:14–26 (NKJV)

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

James 2:14–26 (NKJV)

²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

Defining Faith

FAITH

A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

Romans 1:5,17; 3:27; 4:2-13; 5:1; 6"16-18; 16:25,26

SUBJECTIVE
Romans 10:17

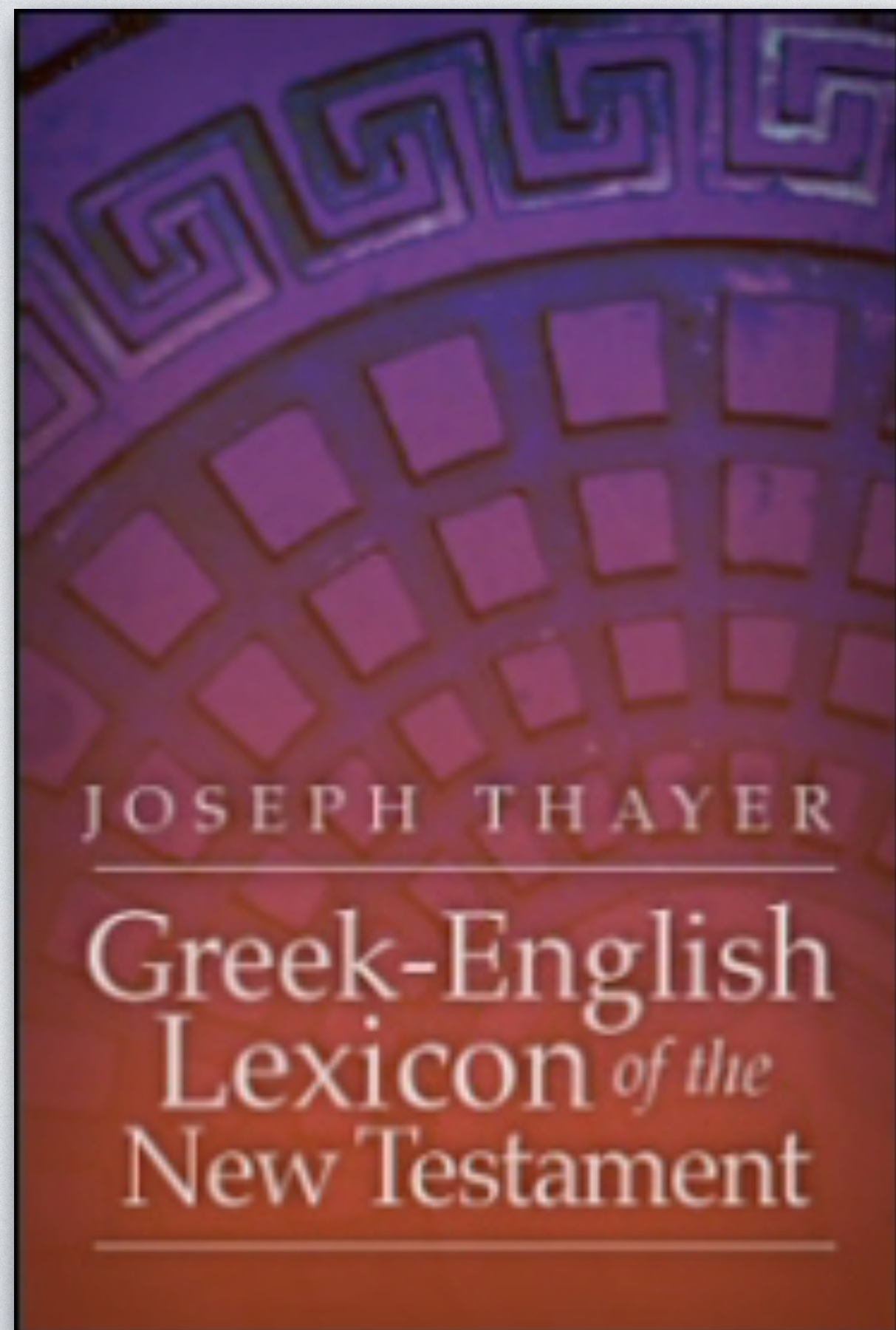
OBJECTIVE
Jude 1:3,4

ENDURE
BAPTISM
REPENT
CONFESS
BELIEVE

D.B.R. of JESUS &
TEACHING of JESUS

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

Defining Faith



4102. πίστις pistis, pis'-tis; from 3982;

"...used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e., a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah -- the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, conjoined with obedience to Christ."

(Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, p. 511)

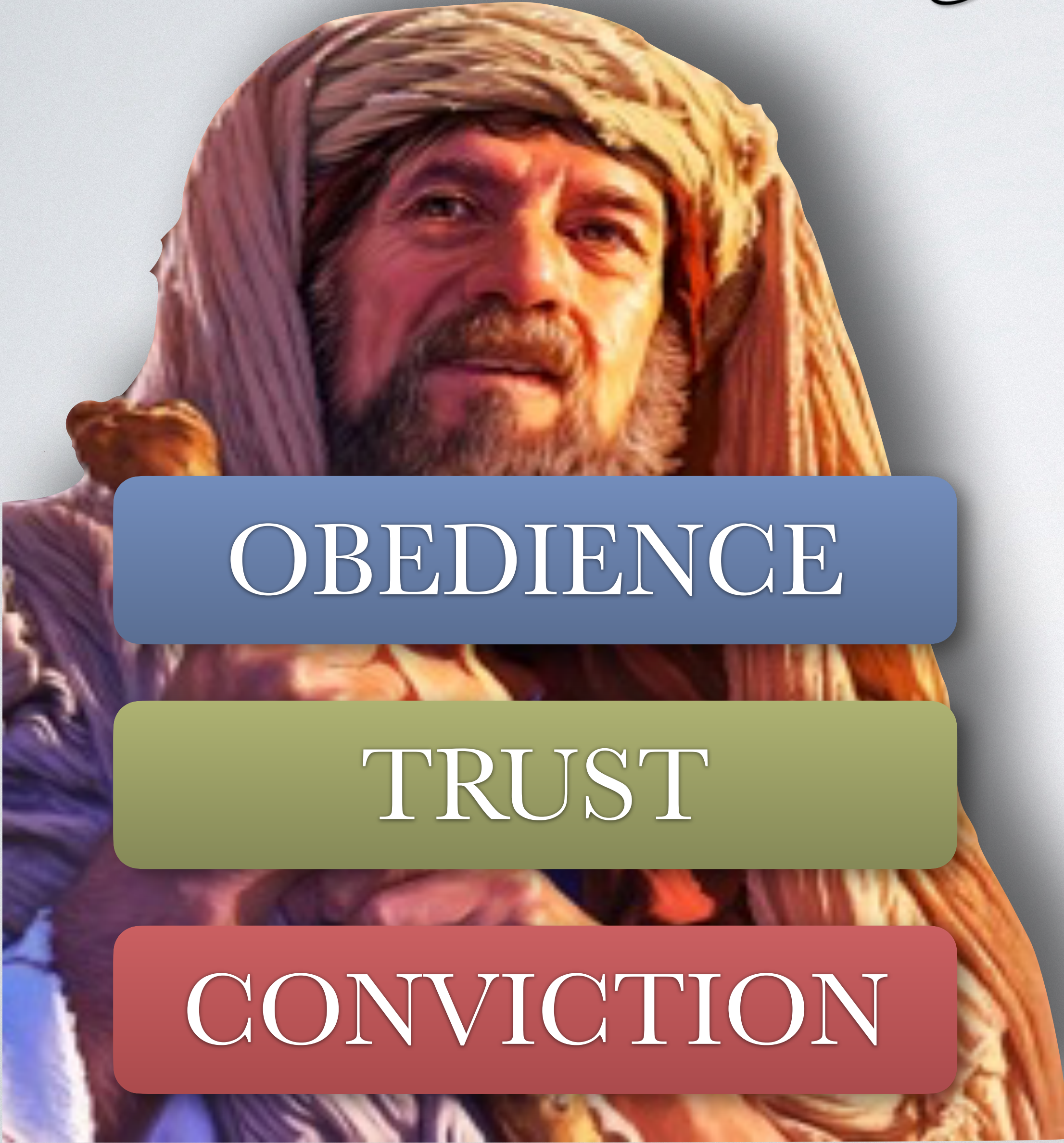
The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

Defining Faith



- FAITH (N) **pistis** (πίστις, 4102), “faith,” is translated “belief” (2 Thess. 2:13).
- BELIEVE (V) **pisteuo** (πιστεύω, 4100), “to believe,” also “to be persuaded of,” and hence, “to place confidence in, to trust,” signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence.
- BELIEVER (ADJ.) **pistos** (πιστός, 4103), (a) in the active sense means “believing, trusting”; (b) in the passive sense, “trustworthy, faithful, trustworthy.”

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH



OBEDIENCE

TRUST

CONVICTION

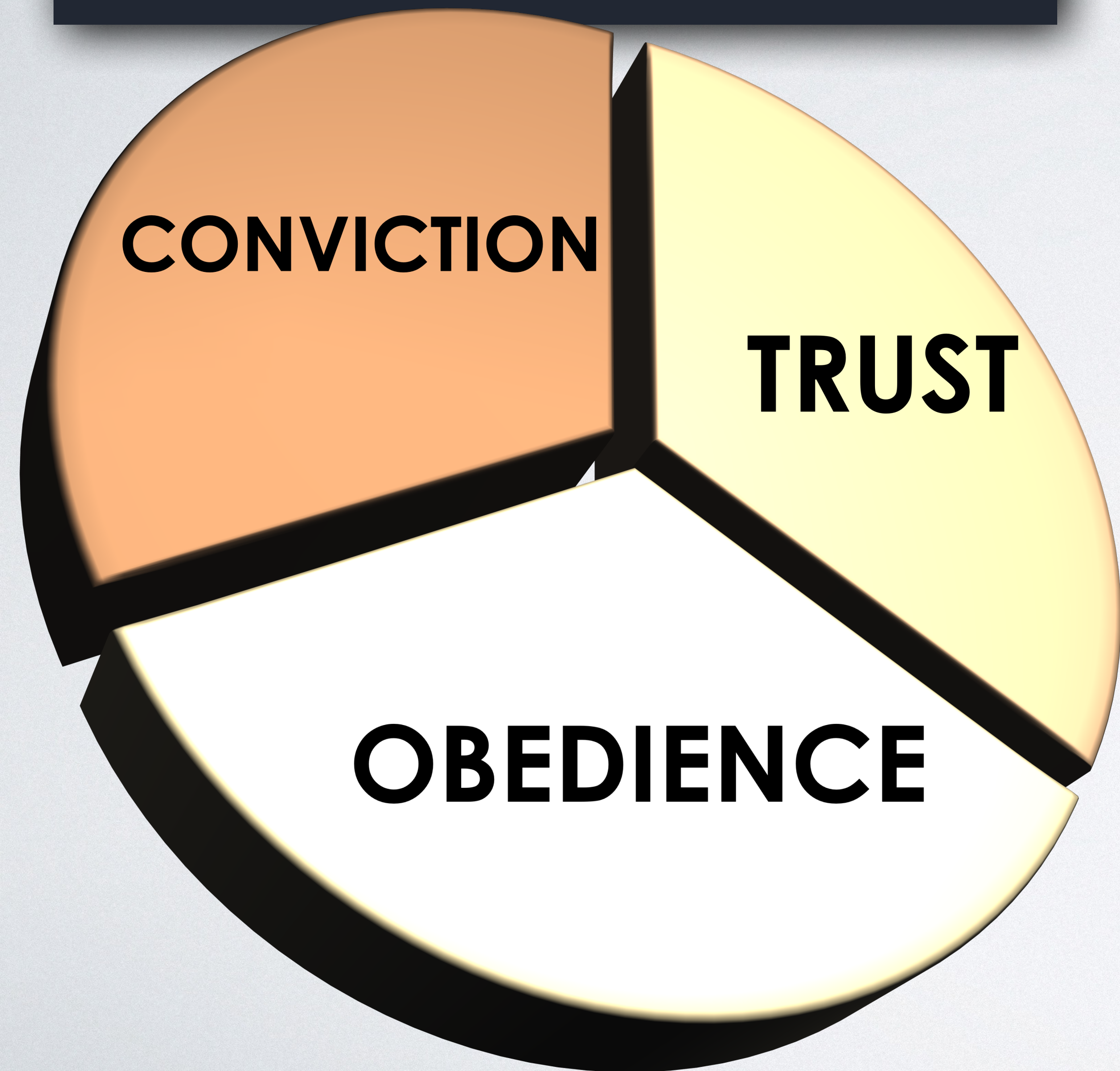
Defining Faith

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But without **faith** *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

SAVING FAITH



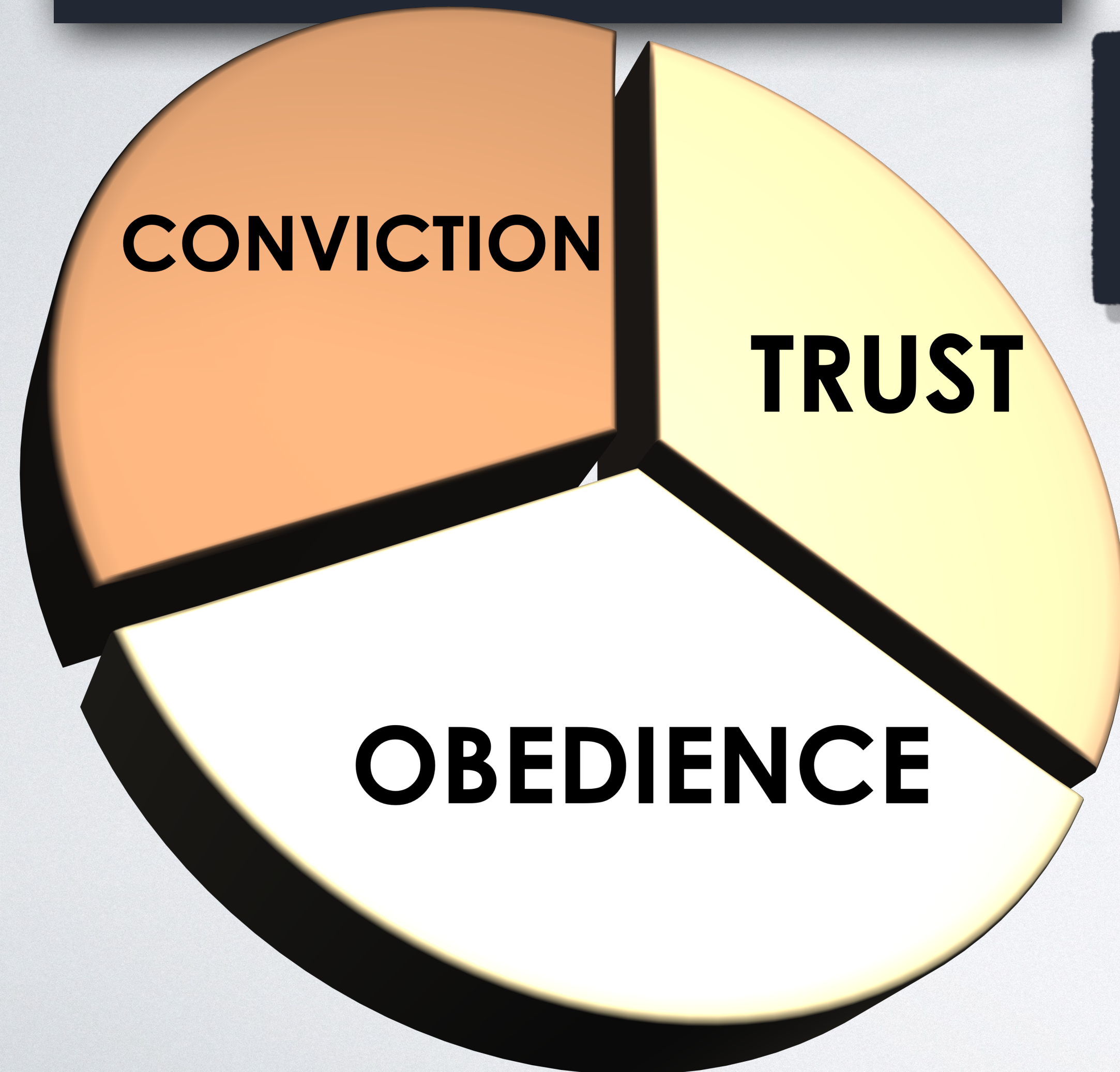
Defining Faith

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But without **faith** it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

SAVING FAITH



NOT FAITH plus WORKS,
but FAITH that WORKS

James 2:22 (NKJV)

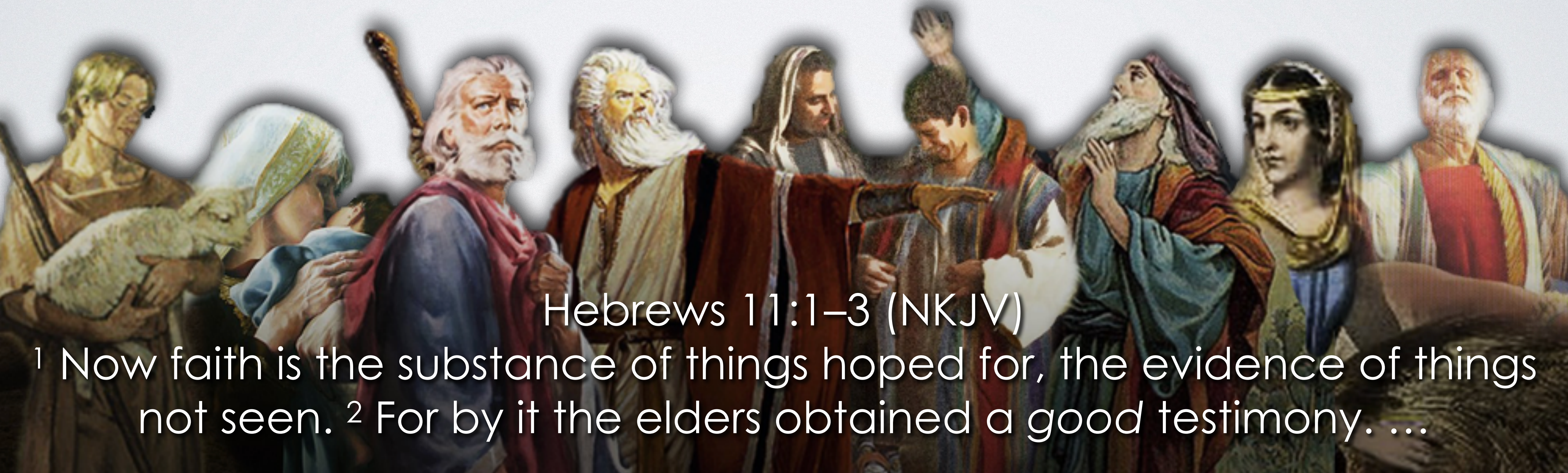
22 Do you see that faith
was working together with
his works, and by works
faith was made perfect?

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

NOT FAITH plus WORKS, but FAITH that WORKS

Faith Exemplified

HEBREWS 11 / By FAITH ...



Hebrews 11:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ...

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH CANNOT SAVE THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY!



James 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ What does *it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can faith save him?**

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH CANNOT SAVE THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY!

James 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS NO MORE ACTUAL FAITH
THAN LOVE WITHOUT WORKS IS ACTUAL LOVE!**



The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH CANNOT SAVE THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY!

**James 2:17
(NKJV)**

**17 Thus also
faith by itself,
if it does not
have works, is
dead.**

What does it profit?

- ▶ Hearers but not doers? (1:22-25)
- ▶ Believers who will not confess? (John 12:42; Rom. 10:9,10)
- ▶ Professors who will not obey? (Luke 6:46; Mat 7:21-23)
- ▶ Is it saving faith if it will not confess?
repent? be baptized? (Luke 7:29,30;
Heb. 11; 2 Thes. 1:7-9)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH CANNOT SAVE THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY!

**James 2:18
(NKJV)**

But someone will say,
“You have faith, and I
have works.” Show
me your faith without
your works, and I will
show you my faith by
my works.

What does it profit?

- ▶ Faith and works are both insufficient
“ALONE!”
- ▶ A verbal declaration of faith (that is not
evidenced by obedience) is a false
declaration: A DEAD FAITH!
- ▶ Dead faith is counterfeit faith and lulls
the person into a false confidence, i.e.,
he deceives himself (1:22)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH CANNOT SAVE THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY!

**James 2:19
(NKJV)**

**¹⁹ You believe
that there is one
God. You do
well. Even the
demons believe—
and tremble!**

- Demons believe in the one true God (Mk 1:24; 5:7; Lk 4:34; Ac. 19:15)
- Demons believe in the deity of Jesus (Mark 3:11,12; Luke 8:30,31)
- Demons believe in hell (Mt 8:29)
- Demons believe Jesus is judge and will condemn (Mark 5:1-13)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!



James 2:21 (NKJV)
Was not Abraham our
father justified by works
when he offered Isaac
his son on the altar?

- Abraham was JUSTIFIED by works (justified, [dikaiosune - δικαιοσύνη] same term as in Rom 4:2,3,5,6; 6:16)
- Abraham trusted God to the max when he obeyed God by offering Isaac! (Heb 11:17; Rom 4:19-22; Gen 22:1-19)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!



- Faith motivated his obedience, which rendered his faith complete, therefore effectual (22; Heb 11:17-19; Gal 5:6)

James 2:22 (NKJV)
22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!



James 2:23 (NKJV)

²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God.

- Faith motivated his obedience, which rendered his faith complete, therefore effectual (22; Heb 11:17-19; Gal 5:6)
- Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness when he obeyed! (23a; Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3; Gal. 3:6-8)
- Abraham was called the friend of God! (23b; Is 41:8; 2 Chron 20:7)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!



James 2:23 (NKJV)

²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*”

And he was called the friend of God.

James 2:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

SYSTEM of FAITH
vs. SYSTEM of LAW

Romans 4:1-6

Justified

Counted for
righteousness

Fulfilled

Genesis 15:6

Strong

Not of works

FAITH / OBEDIENT (4:12)



WHAT Kind of FAITH
did Abraham Have?

James 2:21 (NKJV)
Was not Abraham our
father justified by works
when he offered Isaac
his son on the altar?

ONE HAVING FAITH
OBEYS = SAVED

James 2:21-24

Justified

Counted for
righteousness

Fulfilled

Genesis 15:6

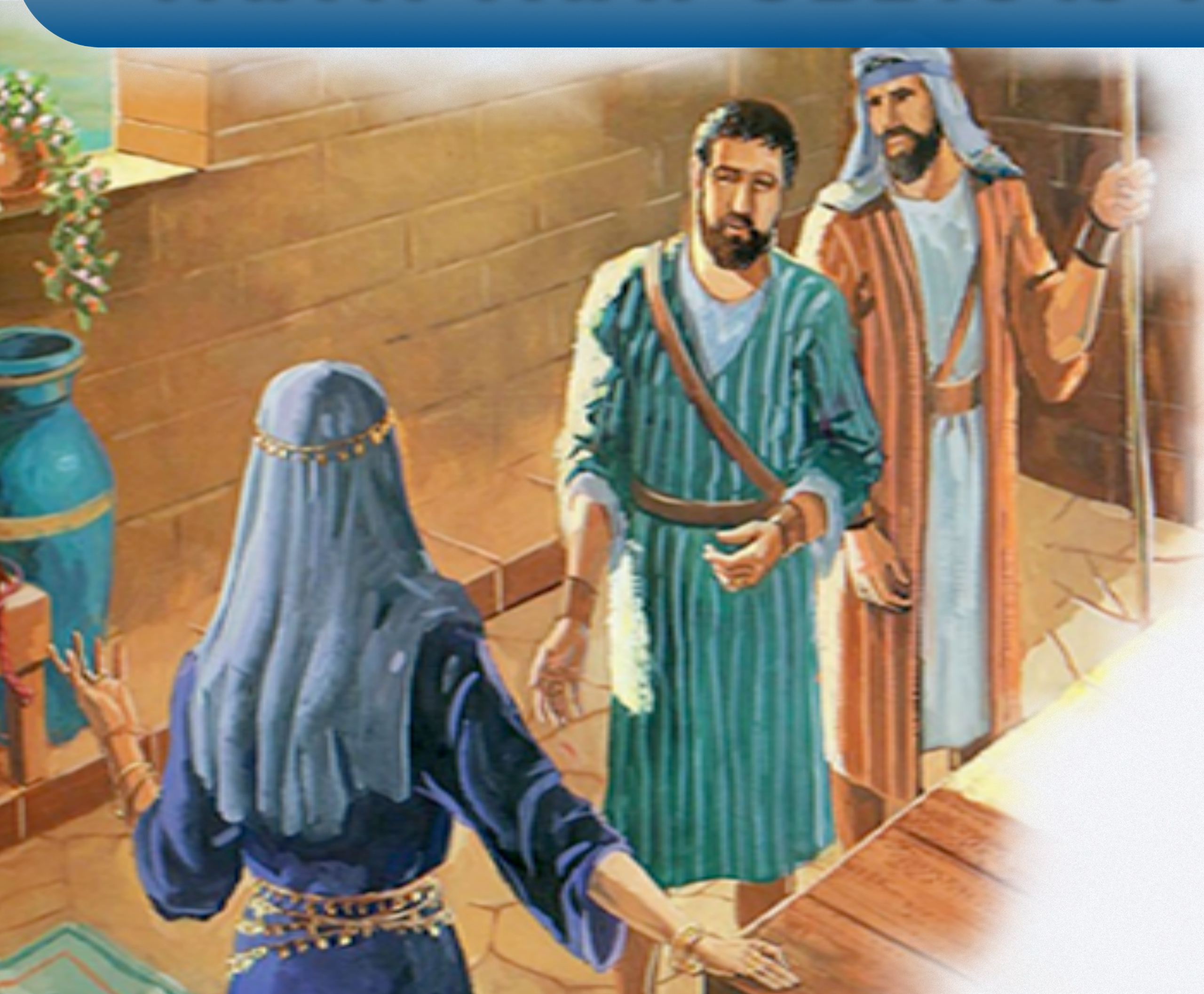
Perfect

By works

FAITH / OBEDIENT

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!



- ▶ Listed among the heroes of faith (Heb 11:31)
- ▶ Great grandmother of David and in the lineage of Jesus (Mat 1:5,6)
- ▶ She helped the spies escape at the risk of her own life! (Joshua 2:10,11)
- ▶ When Jericho was destroyed - she, & her household were saved (Josh 6:25; Heb 11:31)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

What About Ephesians 2:8,9?

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- ▶ Salvation is a gift of God which no man deserves (Rom 3:23)
- ▶ Salvation is received through the faith by the means of our faith (John 3:16; 8:24; Heb 11:6; Rom 1:16,17; 10:17)
- ▶ Salvation CANNOT BE earned through our own merits (Rom. 11:6)
- ▶ No man can boast before God (Rom. 4:2; 3:23)

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

What About Ephesians 2:8,9?

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- ▶ **Noah** saved by grace through faith – Gen. 6:8; Heb 11:7
- ▶ **Naaman** healed by grace through faith – 2 Kings 5:1-19; Lk 4:27
- ▶ **Walls of Jericho** fell by grace through faith – Joshua 6:2,15,16,20; Heb 11:30
- ▶ The **FAITH that obeys does not nullify God's grace - but receives it!!**

The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

BASIS

**God's Universal
Kindness, Love &
Mercy.**

PROVISION

**The Gracious Gift
of God's Son & The
FAITH (Gospel)**



**CONDITIONAL
via a FAITH THAT
WORKS!**

RECEPTION

HEARING / BELIEVING
REPENTING / CONFESSING
BAPTISM / FAITHFUL

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

SAME principle In EVERY Age ...

GOD
SPEAKS

MAN
HEARS

MAN
OBEYS BY
FAITH

GOD
SAVES

- ▶ **Noah** - Gen. 6:8,13-17; 22; 7:5; Heb 11:7
- ▶ **Abraham** – Gen 12:4; 15:6; 17:10,23; 22:3,16-18
- ▶ **Israel** – Ex. 12:13; 14:30; Dt 30:15-19; Jos 6; 1 Cor 10:1-13
- ▶ **Us** – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12,37; Rom 6:3-6; 10:9-13; Gal. 3:26,27; Col. 2:11-13; 1 Pet 3:21; 1 Jn 1:9

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

WHAT IS “that form?”

D.B.R. of JESUS!

HOW DOES ONE OBEY

“that form?”

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

(Rom 6:3-7)

WHEN IS ONE JUSTIFIED,

“set free from sin?”

WHEN “that form” is

OBEYED FROM THE

HEART!

Romans 6:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

¹⁷ But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

WHAT IS “that form?”
D.B.R. of JESUS!

HOW DOES ONE OBEY
“that form?”
BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST
(Rom 6:3-7)

WHEN IS ONE JUSTIFIED,
“set free from sin?”
WHEN “that form” is
OBEYED FROM THE
HEART!

Luke 17:10 (NKJV)

10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’ ”

When one obeys from the heart in baptism and receives salvation - NOTHING IS EARNED, MERITED, or DESERVED!

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!



- ▶ Faith without works is useless
- ▶ Faith without works cannot be demonstrated
- ▶ Faith without works is incomplete faith
- ▶ Faith without works is dead

The NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH



FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

- ▶ We are **NOT** saved by faith ALONE!
- ▶ We are **NOT** saved by works ALONE!
- ▶ We **ARE SAVED** by faith that works!

**WE CANNOT BE SAVED WITHOUT
OBEYING THE LORD BY FAITH**

NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES



**The only effectual
faith is the faith that
obeys God! —
(James 2:14-26; Heb. 11)**

NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES

The Gospel is NOT a system based on MERIT – but forgiveness through Jesus Christ when we by faith obey Him –



NATURE *of* SAVING FAITH

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES



**What kind of FAITH
do you have?
(Mk 16:16; Acts
2:37,38,41; Gal. 3:26,27;
Hebrews 3:12-19; etc.)**

Matthew 7:21–27 (NKJV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Matthew 7:21–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”