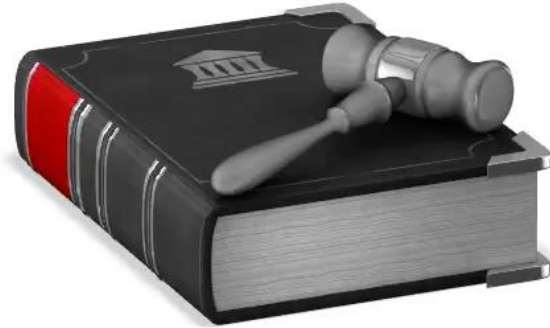


ILLUSTRATIONS OF



James 2:20-26



*If you were accused of
being a Christian would
there be enough evidence
to convict you?*

Standards of Proof

- **Preponderance of Evidence:** Lowest of three standards applied mostly in civil actions. “More likely than not” (51% chance)
- **Clear and Convincing:** Intermediate standard of proof used in cases where liberty interests are at stake (e.g. loss of parental rights). Generally defined as level of certainty (75% chance)
- **Beyond a Reasonable Doubt:** Highest standard of proof used in cases where loss of liberty is at stake (e.g. incarceration, etc.) Level of certainty (90-95% chance)



What evidence would you submit to prove “beyond a reasonable doubt” that you’re a Christian?

The Value of Testing Your Faith

James 1:2–4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.



Evidence
the Cake is
fully baked



Evidence
Your Faith
is
“Complete”



2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

James 2:20-26

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

James 2:20-26

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.

²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man,
that faith without works is dead?

γινώσκω (*ginōskō*) = to know, acquire information
about something ; normally as acquired through
observation or the senses

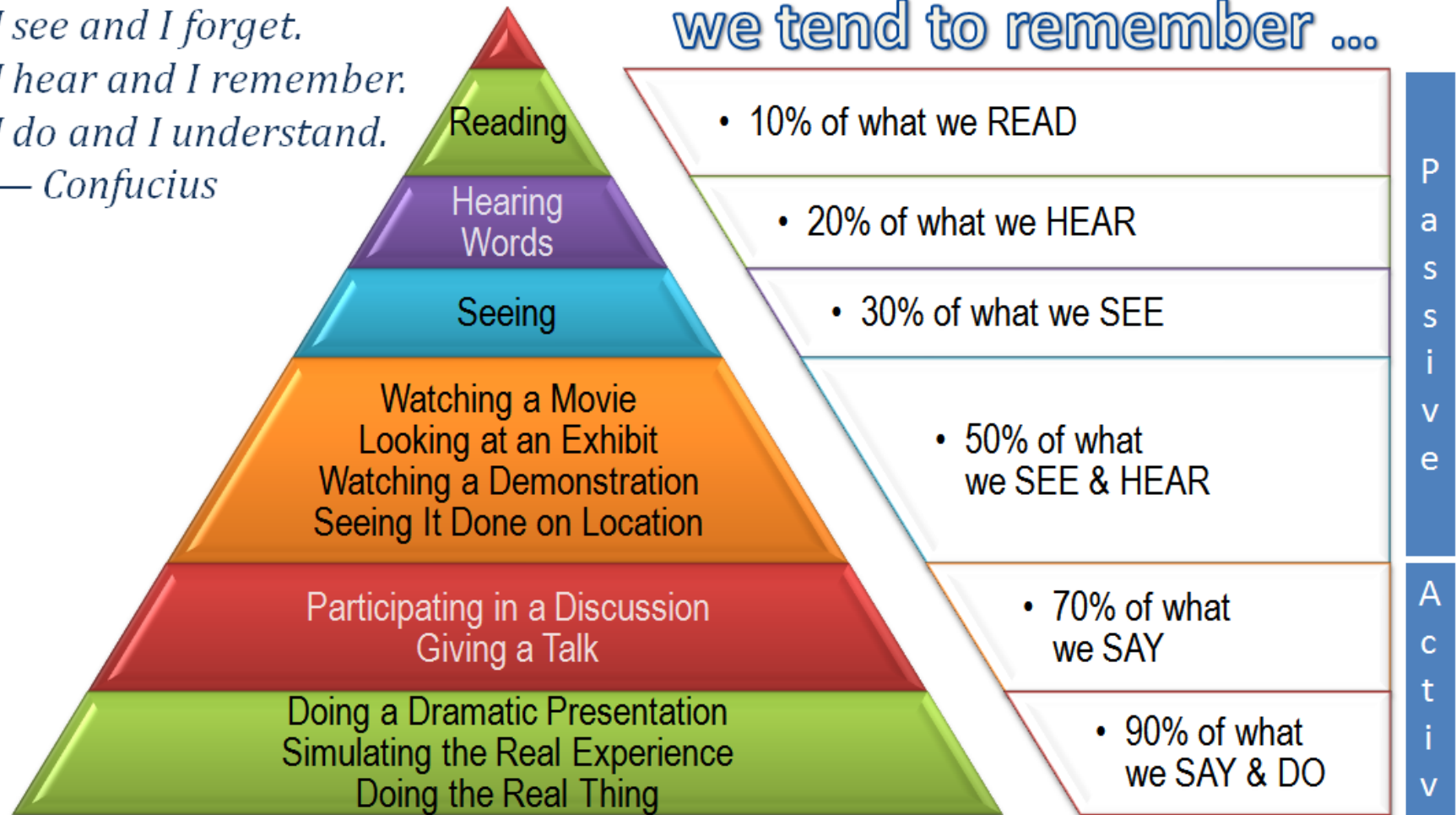
Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). [*A Greek-English Lexicon*](#) (p. 350). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

“This verb is variously nuanced in contexts relating
to familiarity acquired through experience or
association with person or thing.”

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (3rd ed., p. 199). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

The Cone of Learning

*I see and I forget.
I hear and I remember.
I do and I understand.*
— Confucius



Source: Edgar Dale (1969)

²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man,
that faith without works is dead?

κενός (*kenos*) = without anything, empty,
foolish; devoid of knowledge,
truth, reality, purpose,
evidence; stupid, ignorant





IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

(21-24)

IN THE LIFE OF RAHAB

(25)



The Illustration of ABRAHAM

THE FATHER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE
ABRAHAM



Abraham's Tests

- 1) **“family test”** – leave his loved ones (11:27–12:5)
- 2) **“famine test”** – Abraham failed and went down to Egypt (12:10–13:4)
- 3) **“fellowship test”** – gave Lot 1st choice in using the pastureland (13:5–18)
- 4) **“fight test”** – defeated the kings (14:1–16)
- 5) **“fortune test”** – rejected Sodom's wealth (14:17–24)
- 6) **“fatherhood test”** – impatient with God, listened to Sarah and had a child by Hagar (Gen. 16)
- 7) **“farewell test”** – send Ishmael away (21:14–21)

Warren Wiersbe, *Be Obedient*

(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. 1991). pp. 108–109.

The Illustration of ABRAHAM

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?



Genesis 22:12 And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me.”

The Illustration of ABRAHAM

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? 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.

The Illustration of RAHAB



Joshua 2:8–11

Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, **for the LORD your God, He *is* God in heaven above and on earth beneath.**

The Illustration of RAHAB

²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?



The Illustration of YOU

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

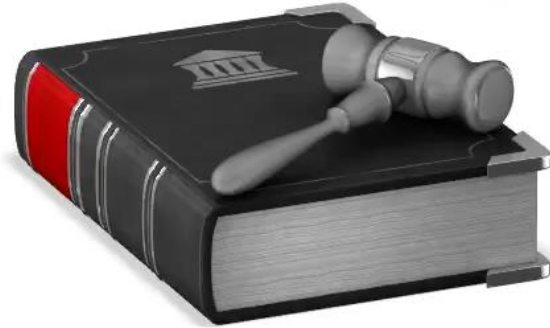
Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Conclusion

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

²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also



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being a Christian would
there be enough evidence
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Next week's study in the Word:

POWER OF THE



James 3:1-5

This study was produced by
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LMHC, CFMHE, CCSOTS

This lecture is a part of a series of studies on “Faith that Works” based on the book of James. An extensively annotated study guide is available to you by using the contact information below. If you find this study helpful, give God the glory. If you discover an error, it’s my fault.

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