

As I have said, faith must always come first; and one is justified by faith, first. The good works only show how real the faith is. Consider, for a moment, what Paul says about Abraham, in the 4th chapter of Romans.

"For what saith the scriptures? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Now the question would naturally arise, when in Abraham's life, was his faith counted for righteousness? Was it before or after the time that James speaks about Abraham being justified by works? In Gen. xv. 5-6, we read that God brought Abraham "forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them; and He said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness." Now let us turn to the 2nd of James 21st verse, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" If you will turn back again to Genesis you will find the account of this given in the 22nd chapter: many years having elapsed since the time that Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Isaac was not even born at that time.

I think you will see, sir, if you believe the scriptures, that "to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Rom. iv. 5.) The statement is simple and cannot be misunderstood.