“Perfected Faith”

Intro: All faith is not ____________.

A. There is a non-productive faith that ____________ to produce good works. That is a ____________ non-saving faith.

B. Faith is known by its _____________. Just as a good tree produces good fruit and is known by that fruit, so does good faith produce good works and is a known to be ____________ faith.

1. While good works do not produce saving faith, saving faith does in fact and without exception produce good works (_______________ to _____________)!

James 2:21-26

I. Abraham was justified by ____________!

A. This seems to ________________ what Paul wrote in verses like Eph. 2:8-9, Romans 3:28, and Galatians 2:16.

1. When we take in Paul writings along with what James wrote, not as opposing each other but as completing the picture, we will see that these truths do not contradict each other but stand in ________________ expanding our view of the truth, making it _______________! Paul has in mind the of salvation and James has in mind that which follows as a result of salvation.

B. The scriptures employ the word "justification" in ________________

1. Justification means to be ________________ right; acquitted of wrong-doing. This is how the word is used in Gal 2:16, “nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified (declared right) by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, ...”

2. The second use of the word justification refers to the ________________ of righteousness, or vindication. The same word that is translated “justified” here is translated as “vindicated” or “proof” in other places and translations.

a. The use of the term “justified” here in James means that Abraham was “proven” to have faith in God by what he did - by what followed his salvation. His faith was ____________ to be saving by his ____________.

b. If we have come to the cross, God declaring us righteous, then we will ________________ ________________ of righteousness. And, our works will be the ________________ of our true faith in God that He has declared us justified.

c. Abrahams ________________ was the ________________ (justification) of his saving faith.

II. As a result of Abraham’s obedience, His faith was ________________.

A. The word “perfected” carries the idea of being made complete, or reaching the intended ________________.
1. The goal of saving faith is to bring about ____________! Perfected faith is saving faith that has ____________ its goal - works of righteousness! When Abraham’s faith motivated him to obey the Lord, working works of righteousness, his faith reached its intended ____________!

B. Faith and works are not co-equals, but faith is to ____________ our works. When works are influenced by faith, then faith is ____________ having reached the goal.

III. “Abraham was called the ____________ of God.” (2 Chronicles 20:7)

A. John 15:14-16, "You are My friends, ___ _____________ what I command you. 15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you ____________, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, ...”

IV. “Rahab the harlot was also ____________ by __________.”

A. Rahab, a woman, the gentile harlot of Jericho in Joshua 2 ____________ her ____________ in God when she told the spies that the “Lord their God was the God of heaven and earth!” Not only did she voice her faith, but her faith ____________ accordingly.

1. Not only was she spared by Joshua’s armies, but she married a Jew and by the ____________ of __________ came into the lineage of being the mother of Boaz the kinsman redeemer of Ruth!

   a. This saving faith that reveals itself through good works even the ____________ of __________!

V. Faith that ____________ to produce good works as it did in Abraham and Rahab is ____________.

A. Though a man may ____________ to have faith, that faith is dead and useless unless there are ____________ ____________ following after it.

B. True faith will not stand alone for works, being the goal of true faith, will follow. And faith with works of righteousness following is ____________ ____________!

Closing thoughts.

1. This is the question for the church today! Can you recognize that ____________ Christ is ___ __________? Do our works justify us? Do they ____________ us to be Christians?

2. Is faith ____________ in you? If we say we are Christians, then we must live Christ-like lives! If we say we believe in Christ, then we must behave as Christ! This is the end of perfected faith which, beloved, is ____________ ____________!