

GSM

The Goal of Faith

I. The Goal of Faith

A. James 2:21

1. This seems to contradict **Gen. 15:6**
2. This was many years after Abram believed God and was counted righteous
3. **Gen. 15:6**- God saw the faith in Abram's heart. He also saw the faith in Abram's heart that he believed God's promise about giving him a seed.

B. James 2:22

1. **see**- Gr. **blepo**- present tense- Are you seeing? God sees the faith in our heart but He wants others to see it in our actions.
2. **faith wrought with his works**- wrought with- Gr. **sunergeo**- faith works along with our works. Faith is what empowers the believer's works. It allows us to perform great things that we could not have otherwise done unaided.
3. Faith must be released by words or actions. Faith is a spiritual substance that works to bring God's realities into natural realities.
4. **faith is made perfect out of works**- perfect- Gr. **teleioo**- to come to a finish, completion, or goal. The goal of our faith is that it be seen, heard, and released into the natural realm.

C. James 2:23

1. **scripture fulfilled**- Gr. **pleroo**- completed to the top
2. The scripture referred to here is **Gen. 15:6**. The act of Abraham offering up Isaac completed this scripture!
3. Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac because he believed the promises of God.
 - a. The first promise was in **Gen. 15:5**- So shall your seed be...
 - b. The second promise was **Gen. 21:12**- In Isaac shall your seed be called...
4. Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac because He believed God would raise him from the dead in order to fulfill His promises.
 - a. **Hebrews 11:17-19**- He accounted that God would raise him from the dead...
 - b. **Gen. 22:5**- The lad and I will return...
5. Abraham released his faith in the promise of God.
6. **He became the friend of God**. In **Gen. 15:6**- He became [was imputed] a **child of God**; However in **Gen. 22**- He became a **friend**

of God by walking with God by faith. Enoch and Noah were like this- They walked with God by faith. They were friends of God.

7. One of the goals of faith is to be God's friend and to walk and work with Him in the earth.

D. James 2:24

1. **See-** Gr. **horao-** *to stare intently at-* present tense- staring at.

2. God wants people to stare at what we do so they will see God in us and see us do what is not possible or what is normal. This will cause them to seek after God.

3. **is justified- present tense- being justified-** This is the **only** place in the New Testament that the word justified is in the **present** tense. In Paul's writings it is always aorist [past tense] or perfect tense.

4. How are we being justified? **Not before God but in the EYES of others**. We are seen as a child of God. We are seen as having His nature. We are seen having His power. We are seen as possessing something the world does not have.

5. This is why James uses the words **show-** vs. 18; **seeing- blepo** vs. 22 and **seeing- horao** vs. 24.

E. In **Gen. 15** Abram was personally blessed. He was accounted as righteous. In **Gen. 22**, His faith leads to many others being blessed.

1. **Gen. 15:5-6-** He is blessed- accounted righteous- saved.

2. **Gen. 22:17-18-** The nations will be blessed –saved- because he obeyed his voice.

F. God's goal for your faith is not only you be blessed but that He can get many other blessings to many other people through you!

1. When you walk in faith you are being a blessing to others and to generations after you.

2. Others are seeing your faith in action and are witnessing God.

G. **James 2:25-** Rahab is the same example

1. It says Rahab was justified when she accepted the spies.

2. Actually she was saved by faith many years earlier- **Josh. 2:1-13**

3. She was blessed by her faith when she believed upon the Lord, but others got blessed and were preserved when she made the deal with the spies.

H. **James 2:26**

1. As the body is dead without the spirit; so is faith without works is dead.

2. The body dies when the spirit is separated from it.

3. Our faith is dead when it is separated from our actions. Faith in our heart that is not released by words or actions remains separated from our natural circumstances. It can bless no one.

I. The ultimate goal of faith is to become a friend of God and that others will be blessed through our faith in God.

II. The Role of Good Works

A. **Ephesians 2:8-10**- We are not saved by good works. We are saved unto good works.

B. Good works are not for God's benefit. Religion and legalism teach good works are done towards God and for merits with God. Good works in the NT Testament are for the benefit of others and to bless them. God sees your faith, which blesses you. However, people need to see your faith by your works and words so they can be blessed by them.

C. NT role of good works

1. **Titus 3:8**- profitable to **MEN**

2. **Titus 3:14**- to **meet needs, to be fruitful**- our works come from abiding in the vine. Others partake of our fruits. Some Christians are just fruity however.

3. **1 Peter 2:12**- They may see our good works and glorify God

4. **Matthew 5:16**- They may see good works and glorify God.

D. The ultimate goal for our faith is that it be released in our actions and words so that God can bless many people in many ways through us.

E. When we walk in faith, others are being benefited. Those watching and those in future generations.