

ABRAHAM'S FAITH  
Romans 4:16-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Abraham was a righteous man
  - 1) vs. 3 - "For what saith the scriptures?"
  - 2) He obtained it by grace through faith
  - 3) vs. 5 - "his faith is counted for righteousness."
  
- B. God's promise to Abraham was based on faith and not on the law.
  - 1) vs. 13 - "not....through the law."
  - 2) vs. 16 - "Therefore, it is of faith."
  
- I. Abraham is the Father of All Those Who Have Faith vs. 16
  - A. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed:
    - 1) "That is why all turns upon faith; it is to make the promise a matter of favour." Mof.
    - 2) "So the promise [not being capable forfeiture] might stand firm to all Abraham's seed." Con.
    - 3) Suppose the promise had been based on the keeping of the law? Abraham lied about Sarah.
  
  - B. "not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,"
    - 1) Not to the Law family
    - 2) To the one's having faith like Abraham's
    - 3) He is the believing Jews father and he is the believing Gentile's father.
  
- II. The Promise of God to Abraham vs. 17
  - A. (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations) before him whom he believed, even God,
    - 1) "made thee" = tithemi = "to place", "to appoint"
    - 2) Gen. 12:3 - ".....and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
    - 3) Gen. 18:18- ".....and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"
    - 4) Gen. 22:18- "And in thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed."
    - 5) "As the scripture says, "I have made you the father of many nations." "The promise is guaranteed in the very sight of God in whom he had faith." Gspd.
    - 6) "Right in front of God"

- B. "who quickeneth the dead"
  - 1) "quickeneth" = zoopoieo = "to give life"
  - 2) vs. 19
  
- C. "and calleth those things which be not as though they were"
  - 1) "and speaks of future events with as much certainty as though they were already past." Tay.
  - 2) The promise of God is so certain to come to pass that we may view it as history!

III. Abraham Believed God's Promise vs. 18

- A. "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations."
  - 1) "hope" = elpis = "expectation of something future", "a well-grounded expectation", "a gladly and firmly held prospect of a future good."
  - 2) "believed" = pisteuo = "be persuaded", "rely upon", "trust"
  - 3) Abraham believed God. This gave him a hope. This hope had never come to pass. He continued to have it and he continued to trust God to bring it to pass.
  
- B. "according to that which was spoken, "so shall thy seed be"
  - 1) "according" = kata = "down", "according to"
  - 2) "spoken" = ero = "to give forth thought", "the thing having been said", (by God)
  - 3) "so shall thy seed be"
  - 4) The thing that gave Abraham his faith was not some evidence of God keeping His promise. He kept remembering what God had said.

IV. Abraham's Faith Never Weakened vs. 19

- A. "And being not weak in faith,"
  - 1) "weak" = astheneo = "to be ill", "to be feeble"
  - 2) His faith never got old and sick!
  
- B. The two things that could have made his faith sick
  - 1) "he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old."
    - a. "considered" = katanoeo = "to perceive or discern distinctly or clearly"
    - b. He knew he was too old to become a father.
  - 2) "neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb"
    - a. "deadness" = nekrosis = "a putting to death"
    - b. Sarah was past bearing a child
  - 3) These, "facts" never made his faith "sick"

V. Abraham's Faith Never Staggered vs. 20

- A. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief;"
- 1) "staggered" = diakrino = "to be in strife with one's self", "to doubt", "hesitate", "waver"
  - 2) "unbelief" = apistia = "distrust", "unbelief"
  - 3) Abraham critically judged and he thought through all the things he knew about himself, about his wife and the results of his thinking through did not lead him to abandon his faith and trust in God!
- B. "but was strong in faith, giving glory to God"
- 1) "strong" = endunamoo = "to strengthen", "to acquire strength", "to be strong"
  - 2) Abraham's faith was empowered
  - 3) He glorified God!

VI. The Basis of Abraham's Faith vs. 21

- A. "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised"
- 1) "fully persuaded" = plerophoreo = "to bear or bring fully", "to be fully assured"
  - 2) "and being absolutely certain"
- B. "he was able also to perform"
- 1) "able" = dunatos = "strong", "having power"
  - 2) "perform" = poieo = "to make", "to form", "produce", "cause"; "repeatedly do"
  - 3) Abraham and Sarah weren't able, God was!

VII. The Results of Having Faith vs. 22

- A. This kind of faith works
- 1) "And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness"
  - 2) "imputed" = logizomai = "to account"
  - 3) "righteousness" = dikaiosune = "all that God demands and commands of a person"
- B. Faith pleases God
- 1) Hebrews 11 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him."
  - 2) "please" = euaresteo = "to well-please"

VIII. All May Have This Faith vs. 23-25

- A. "Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;" vs. 23
- 1) "written" = grapho = "to grave"
  - 2) "imputed" = elogisthe = "it was accounted"

- B. "But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead." vs. 24
  - 1) "but also with reference to us. Our faith, too, will be accounted for righteousness."
  - 2) "if we have faith in Him....."
  
- C. "who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."
  - 1) "delivered" = paradidomi = "to hand over"
  - 2) "justification" = dikaiosis = "the action which establishes right", "a sentence in law, therefore also justification", "the establishment of a man as just, by acquittal from guilt"
  - 3) "offence" = paraptoma = "a falling aside from truth", "the lapse toward sin"

IX. The Gospel, The Instrument of God, to Save

- A. He was delivered
  - 1) God turned Jesus over to Satan
  - 2) Satan did what he always does
  
- B. He was raised up
  - 1) God's power prevailed
  - 2) Here is the "gospel" Paul was not ashamed to preach at Rome! 1:16