
That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all His offspring – not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all. (Romans 4:16)

I. Abraham's Faith Explained

- a. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. The word *believed* in Hebrew means "to say amen." God gave Abraham a promise and he responded with "Amen!"
- b. It was this faith that was counted for righteousness. *Counted* in Greek means "to put to one's account." The point is Abraham did not work for salvation, he simply trusted God.
- c. This is the main idea that Paul presents to the hearers/readers. The Jews in the audience were familiar with Abraham's faith journey. He believed the promise of God firmly and practically.
 1. Read Gen 12:1-3. Abraham heard and then he went.
 2. There was a 25 year gap between God's first promise and the renewal of that promise. (Gen 17:5)
 3. He faced the impossibility between his and Sarah's body and the promise of God. (vv.19-20)
- d. Abraham was justified by believing God's promise, not by obeying the Law. He was fully convinced. **See v.20**
- e. Abraham did not understand that Christ was to be born of him and that His covenant with God would later be connected to the Blood Covenant of Jesus. Abraham was the forerunner of Jesus.

II. How is the Gospel Received?

- a. By *faith*. *Faith* is believing the promise of God, taking God at His word and acting upon that belief by trusting Him.
- b. Every believer should have the faith that resembles Abraham's character.
- c. Like Abraham, we must continue to believe through great difficulties and impossibilities.
 1. Can you believe that Jesus has cleansed you by His precious Blood?
 2. Do you believe the Word of God is true? The birth of Isaac. The birth of Jesus. Do you believe?
 3. Do you believe that God continuously calls you to a divine purpose?
 4. Do you believe that one day you will wear a crown of glory and walk on streets of gold?
- d. God has put our sins on Christ's account that He might put Christ righteousness on our account. (vv. 23-25)
- e. God has chosen to make salvation by faith as a result of His grace. That no man can boast.
- f. Grace and faith are in agreement, but grace and works are like oil and water they do not mix.
- g. God sent His Son (grace), He died for our sins (grace), and we are called a holy people (grace).
- h. The acknowledgement of this grace requires faith. *Faith is the child of grace.* (C. Spurgeon)

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Are you fully convinced that God is able to do what He promised? What promise(s) are you expecting to be fulfilled? Are you fully convinced to wait on God?
- b. True faith laughs at impossibilities knowing that God's will and power cannot be hindered. If God has told you...go and do it. When God speaks, just say "Amen!"
- c. Whatever the impossibility, we act in faith when we focus on the promise more than the problem.
- d. Pick an area of life that is impossible and begin to apply *faith* and watch the growth/change.