

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SERIES

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TEXT: Romans 4:16 For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore **IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.** 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 *He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

REVIEW: LAST WEEK’S MESSAGE: OUR FATHER ABRAHAM

- 1. ABRAHAM WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS MAN:** Genesis 13:2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.
- 2. ABRAHAM TITHED TO MECHIZEDEK:** Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
- 3. ABRAHAM WAS COMMANDED TO TEACH HIS CHILDREN AND HIS HOUSEHOLD THE WAYS OF GOD BY TEACHING THEM RIGHTEOUSNES AND JUSTICE:** Genesis 18:17 The LORD said,



“Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? 19 For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

- Deuteronomy 16:18 “You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. 19 You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.”

- Genesis 26:1 There was a famine in the land... 12 Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy...

- Genesis 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed... 22 “This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God’s house, and of *all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.*”

- 4. ABRAHAM WAS RADICALLY OBEDIENT BY LEAVING HIS FAMILY AND COUNTRY, AND BY THE ULTIMATE ACT OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE, TAKING ISAAC TO MOUNT MORIAH TO SACRIFICE HIM**
- 5. ABRAHAM WAS A MAN OF FAITH:** This was the first point of last week’s message, but I want to continue using the text of Romans 4:16-25 as our text this morning. It is going to take faith to prosper. Unfortunately, many are anxious about their financial situation. With the inflation at a 40-year high, I know many of you are fighting anxiety and fear. Especially going through COVID and a global lockdown, we are all concerned about our future. But God wants us to walk by faith and not by sight. He wants us to trust Him for prosperity as we continue to sow in our tithes and offering. I want you to approach the December 4th Firstfruits offering in faith. I want you to sow in faith and expect a great harvest. We are going to see how Isaac

sowed in a time of famine and reaped a hundred-fold return. “If God didn’t spare His own Son, will He not with Him freely give us all things” (Romans 8:32).

PURPOSE STATEMENT: I want to share five truths about faith that is in our text Romans 4:16-25, and it is from the life of Abraham. We know that without faith it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). I want to share faith in context of our Stewardship series because it is difficult to move in faith and give our tithes and offerings if we are moving in doubt and fear.

I. FAITH IS A GIFT

A. Romans 4:16 For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

1. It is not working up our faith but receiving the grace of faith.
2. God allowed Abraham to be 100 years old and Sarah 90, knowing that they had no ability in the natural to have a son. But they received the grace to believe and to have a child.

B. The word says in 1 Corinthians 12:9 that faith is called the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1. Acts 14:8 At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well
2. My heavenly encounter in purchasing the building.

II. FAITH COMES WITH AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

A. Romans 4:17b in the presence of Him whom he believed...

1. Abraham had an encounter with God’s presence.
- B. Most encounters are with His word or the voice of the Holy Spirit.

1. ROMANS 10:17 FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD (RHEMA) OF GOD

2. John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”
3. Isaiah 30:21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

III. FAITH DECREES OR DECLARES THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS IF THEY WERE

- A. Romans 4:17** in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. **18** In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, **“SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.”**
- 1. Faith is believing you have it before you see it. It “calls into being that which does not exist.”**
 - 2. We are to decree or declare what Jesus wants us to declare.**
 - 3. Matthew 16:19** “What you bind on earth must first be bound in heaven by Jesus, and what you loose on earth must first be loosed in heaven by Jesus.” (This is my translation of the Greek)

IV. WE MUST GROW STRONG IN OUR FAITH

- A. Romans 4:19** Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; **20** yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, **21** and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.
- 1. We go from faith to faith. Romans 1:17** For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **“BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**
 - 2. Faith is a fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22** And the fruit of the Spirit is: Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, *faith*, **23** meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Young’s Literal Translation)
 - 3. Most Bible translations translate the Greek for faith to *faithfulness*, but literally it is the Greek word *faith*. Faith is a fruit, a gift the Holy Spirit gives that can be developed.**
 - 4. I have heard Bible teachers say that faith is like a muscle, and the more you use it and develop it, you will grow stronger.**

V. FAITH IN GOD

- A. Romans 4:21** and being *fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.* **22** Therefore **IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.** **23** Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, **24** but for our sake also, to whom it will be

credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, **25 He** who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

1. Jesus said, “Have faith in God.” (Mark 11:22)
2. Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of *faith toward God*
3. Faith is not in faith but a Person. God wants intimacy with you. Abraham believed that God is faithful to the promise that He made to Abraham and Sarah.
4. It is not just Abraham’s faith in a faithful God, but Sarah had faith in God’s nature and character. “**By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.**” (Hebrews 11:11)
5. Finally, Abraham was a friend of God. **James 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,”** and he was called the friend of God.

CONCLUSION: As we grow in our intimacy with God, we will learn His ways and grow to know His character. Jesus says, “No longer do I call you servants, but I call you friends.” As we deepen our intimacy and friendship with Jesus, we will grow in our faith and see things that were not come into being.