

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"Characteristics Of Faith"
Romans 4:17-25
Study-12

Romans 4:18 – "In hope against hope he believed,"

Romans 3:21-11:36 – By Faith: Romans 3:28.

Romans 4:1-26 – Entire Chapter Dedicated to Abraham.

"Abraham, who is the father of us all," – Romans 4:22. Justification – "just as if we haven't sinned"

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Is The Object Of Our Faith. So, It Is Not 'Show Me And I'll Believe,' It Is 'Believe, And God Will Show Me.'"

Abraham models 7 characteristics of true, saving faith:

- 1. Verses 17-18 – Faith's Object:** Romans 4:17 – "(as it is written," – Context: Paul is citing Abraham as the great model and example of genuine faith. Paul left off with Romans 4:16.

"A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU)" – Paul quotes Genesis 17:5.

Genesis 15:6 – "Then he believed in the LORD;"

"in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God," – This is where Abraham's faith was directed unto God. Not in faith!

Faith was in a person, God's promised Word (Bible), John 14:6.

"he believed, even God" – It is in the person of God, John 17:3.

"(as it is written, 'A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU')"
– Notice, it was declared by God as being so, even though it was not physically so.

1 John 1:9

The God Who Gives Life To The Dead: "even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist."

Romans 8:30

Romans 4:18 – “In hope against hope” – This is called an oxymoron, a combination of contradictory terms used to heighten the effort of a statement. “With no ground for hope, sustained by hope, who beyond hope, believed upon hope.” – “he believed,”

“hope” – is the “sure expectation of a future event;” no human ground for any hope; whereas faith is “the firm confidence that something is true, and it will happen.”

“according to that which had been spoken,” – The object of true, saving faith is God. True, saving faith saves because of its object.

“SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” – God had promised that Abraham would have many descendants, Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5-6.

2. Verse 19 – Faith’s Obstacle:

Romans 4:19 – “Without becoming weak in faith” – “to be feeble, to be diseased, sick.”

Galatians 6:9 – Always to soon to quit!

“he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old,” – “genetically, his body was completely dead.”

“and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;” – There was no way for a 90-year-old woman to bear children, Genesis 17:17; Hebrews 11:11.

One reason why God delayed in sending Abraham and Sarah a son was to permit all their natural strength to decline and then disappear.

And yet, in spite of the obstacle, Abraham believed God (His Word).

3. Verse 20 – Faith’s Growth:

Romans 4:20 – “waver” – “doubt, stagger, to divide, to judge between two things.” Abraham was not divided or pulled apart! Sarah was barren but God had promised!

“but grew strong in faith,” – all of these obstacles were used by God to cause Abraham’s faith in God to mature.

"Faith" – or "belief" is used 16X in Romans 4. Everything Abraham did was by faith.

"God said it; therefore, I believe it, even though I don't understand it."

"giving glory to God," – True faith glorifies God, because it exalts His trustworthy character! John 15:8

Do you want to be blessed by God? Do you want to grow in your faith? Then glorify God by loving him and doing what he commands.

4. Verse 21 – Faith's Conviction:

Romans 4:21 – "and being fully assured" – "most surely believed, being filled with a thought or conviction;" "that what God had promised,"

Abraham certainly did not understand God and his ways,
1 John 5:10.

"He was able also to perform." – Faith's conviction is that God's promises are utterly trustworthy. Biological Miracle; like the birth of John the Baptist! Not a virgin birth but a supernatural birth!
Luke 1:36-37

5. Verse – 22 Faith's Result: Romans 4:22 – "Therefore" – Abraham's faith and belief was in God's Word. Abraham wanted to glorify God; the result was righteousness.

"CREDITED" – was used 4X, Romans 4:3,5,9,22; An accounting term means "to credit, to transfer to another, to place in a storeroom."

"TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." – What kind of faith produces this? Abraham believed in God, God's promise, and he was declared "Not guilty" by God.

God must wait until the sinner is "dead" and unable to help himself before He can release His saving power.

6. Verses 23-24 – Faith's Example: Romans 4:23 – Abraham becomes the model and the pattern of faith to those that would trust Jesus Christ! Romans 15:4

"Now not for his sake only" – 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Romans 4:24

"Abraham was saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone."

God's Saving Power Is Experienced By Those Who believe In Christ:
Romans 1:16.

"to whom it will be credited," – God's Righteousness Is Given To
Those Who Believe; They Are Justified By Faith!

7. Verses 24-25 – Faith's Substance: Romans 4:24 – "as those who believe in Him" – Today, we don't look forward to the promise of God, but we look backwards to the accomplished fact and believe it.

"who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead," – The essence of true, saving faith is believing in Jesus who died and rose for our salvation,
Romans 5:10.

Romans 4:25 – "delivered over because of our transgressions," –
Psalm 51:5.

"and was raised because of our justification." – Jesus died and rose again from the dead to ensure that we could be justified by God.

Application:

1. Abraham's Object Of True, Saving Faith Was God. True, Saving Faith Saves Because Of Its Object.
2. God Must Wait Until The Sinner Is "Dead" And Unable To Help Himself Before He Can Release His Saving Power.
3. God Said It; Therefore, I Believe It, Even Though I Don't Understand It.
4. We Are Saved Exactly The Same Way As Abraham. Abraham Was Saved By Grace Alone Through Faith Alone In Christ Alone.