

ROMANS 4:18-25

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

OUR WALK — PUTTING THE WORD INTO PRACTICE

Pray:

- If you have never put your faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection to make you right with God, do that today.
- If you have been living for self and not actually living a life of faith, ask God’s forgiveness and grace to get back to living a life of faith.
- If there is someone that you long to see come to faith, ask God’s Spirit to bring them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Pursue/Prepare: Listen to the following songs to fuel your faith:

- “Confident” by Steffany Gretzinger
- “Stand in Faith” by Danny Gokey
- “Say the Word” by Hillsong United

Participate: Who can you share Christ with this week? Ask God to open a door of opportunity to share Christ with someone this week. And ask God for the boldness to open your mouth when the opportunity comes.



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TWO THOUGHTS

1. Abraham was given credit for his faith, not his works, and so he became the father (or predecessor) of all who believe.
2. One man (Adam) brought death to the world, and one man (Jesus Christ) brought us life. God’s gift of grace is for all who believe.

SNAPSHOTS FROM ABRAHAM’S LIFE

Genesis 12:1-4, 13:14-16, 15:1-6, 21:1-5

KEY TEXT: ROMANS 4:18-25

BIG PICTURE OBSERVATIONS

- 1.) The theme of FAITH continues in this section of Scripture.
- 2.) Abraham believed God’s PROMISE.
Romans 4:21 - Abraham was “fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”
- 3.) Paul is driving us toward his GOAL, which is faith in Jesus Christ.

This should be a model for us to follow as well: to POINT people to Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, and encourage people to put their faith in Him.

FAITH IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BUT NOT AUTOMATIC FOR ALL

Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

1. "Offspring": (Grk: σπέρμα) The Greek word for offspring is a collective word usually referring to a person's DESCENDANTS.
2. "Father of many nations" - Abraham did become the father of many nations PHYSICALLY. The Jewish world and the Arab world all trace back to Abraham.
3. God's promise to Abraham has also been fulfilled SPIRITUALLY because all who have faith in God are children of Abraham.

Romans 4:16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Universality = salvation is OFFERED to everyone.

Universalism = salvation is RECEIVED by everyone.
(This passage teaches universality, not universalism.)

While righteousness (right standing before God) is offered freely to everyone, it is not automatically credited to everyone. It is exclusive to those who BELIEVE.

Romans 4:23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

FAITH

1. Faith has power not simply in believing something, but in believing the RIGHT thing. In other words, faith has power because of the ONE in whom we place our faith. We must believe in something that is actually in line with REALITY.
Numbers 23:19, Psalm 33:6
2. Faith is based on God's WORD, (what God has said) not just on the evidence of our senses.

TRUSTWORTHY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1. God is Limitless: Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE for God!
Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed... 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.
2. God is Life: He brings DEAD things to life.
Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
3. God is Love: God is GOOD and He CARES for us.
 - a. God recorded Abraham's story of faith for our BENEFIT, so we could understand God's promise to us who have faith.
Romans 4:23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us,...
 - b. The ultimate demonstration of love in this passage is Christ's self-SACRIFICE on the cross!
Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Justified = because of Jesus Christ, God views me: "Just-if-I'd" never sinned.

Final exhortation: Entrust your life to God who is limitless, is life, and is love!