

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

"Abraham's Faith"

Romans 4:19-21

INTRODUCTION

1. Moses and Paul are great men, but Abraham surpasses them both. He is father of both Jews and Gentiles--faithwise (v. 48).
2. Abraham had a big God. He did not dwarf the God of the Bible. To Abraham, God made the dead alive; God called things non-existent as existent; God provided hope when there was no external hope. What a mighty God!
3. Counterfeits of faith are evident everywhere. These include: a. Delusion. This is the denial of reality believing it will go away. This view teaches that anything imperfect is an illusion. b. Presumption. Fundamentally this is rationalism. It exalts the human mind to infallibility. c. Credulity. This view accepts what is promulgated by others at the expense of historical facts and reason.
4. Not accepting these false ideas of faith, how does Scripture describe Abraham's faith. Study the text and see:-

1. ABRAHAM--NOT WEAK IN FAITH

The ingressive aorist participle with a negative is translated, "not becoming weak in faith." The article in the Greek points to "his" faith. Abraham had seen the vision of the glory of God (Acts 7:2) and from that learned the nothingness of man. Earth's cisterns are dry. Faith originates with God, not man. True faith is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8, 9). Abraham experienced this, so he was not weak in faith. He was strong in the gift of God.

2. ABRAHAM--CONSIDERED NOT HIS OWN BODY

There was no trouble in Abraham with inner doubts. His own condition did not affect the picture. Some omit the negative in this phrase. Whether accepted or rejected, the result is the same. Abraham was not looking at his body. Even if he were, the fact is the same. The weak body had nothing to do with God's promise. So what if his body were dead. God had spoken and that was sufficient. Blessed be God! One hundred years of age meant nothing with God.

3. ABRAHAM--CONSIDERED NOT SARAH'S WOMB

Sarah was past 90, but since God had promised--that's

*Gen 6-9 - Rom
Re: Noah*

all that counted. Abraham had a great God, not a little God. Thus, the outward circumstances of earthly impossibilities were nothing to Him. It was a total abandonment to God with complete disregard of circumstances (cf. Noah who built an 18,000 ton ship, though it had never rained. Caleb and Joshua did not look at the giants. They did not become grasshoppers, but believed God).

4. ABRAHAM--LOOKED TO GOD'S PROMISE

The text reads " . . .looking unto the promise of God, he wavered not through unbelief." In essence, this means Abraham set an undeviating course, step by step, with his eyes filled with the God of the promises (cf. Heb. 11:10). Peter (Mt. 14:22-36) looked around and sank. So did Lot (Gen. 13:5ff). Not so Abraham. He had eyes, ears, and heart for the God of Glory. He had an unwavering walk of faith.

5. ABRAHAM--STRONG IN FAITH

This means that Abraham really believed with all his heart and acted upon that belief. It is like those good women and men who commit themselves the one to the other in love, respect, and honor. Each really believes the other. While humans fail, God does not (Lam. 3:22, 23).

6. ABRAHAM--GAVE GLORY TO GOD

Here is a word of thanks to God before he had received the promise. Had he demanded to see the answer first would have been doubt. That doubt would have been an insult to the One Who made the promise (God). "Glory" is the Greek for "opinion," hence Glory is one's opinion about God. So, Abraham gave a good opinion of the God, in regard to His nature and character, who had given the promise. No new knowledge, yet unknown, could possibly change God's mind. God had spoken. The issue was settled.

7. ABRAHAM--BELIEVED GOD ABLE TO PERFORM

The life of Abraham became an attitude. This sort of life brings the Saviour closer than hands and feet. We know the facts about our Lord (cf. 1 John 5:20). We know that we know. We know without question. We live with that knowledge and act upon it. It is done and cannot be undone. "Being fully assured" is an aorist passive participle. It means to bring to full measure, to settle fully (cf. papyri where used to mean finish off or pay off). What a God of power in Whom to believe. CONCLUSION No question about it, Abraham is an example of Bible faith. So be it with you and me.