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. Funda-
mentally 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.

¶. 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
all that counted. Abraham had a great God, not a little
God. Thus, the outward circumstances of earthly impossi-
bilities were nothing to Him. It was a total abandon-
ment 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.