

THE GRACE OF GOD | “Faith in Almighty God”

Romans 4:17-25

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How does God justify the ungodly?

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

> What is the object of our faith? God

> **Why was Abraham’s faith entirely and exclusively in God?** Because there were two attributes of God which were the foundations of Abraham’s faith.

(1) **God’s power (vv. 17a, 21)** – Abraham knew God was able to keep his promises.

(2) **God’s faithfulness (vv. 18-22)** — Abraham knew God was faithful to keep his promises.

Faith is living, daring confidence in God’s grace. **Martin Luther**

1. Faith believes God is able to keep his promises (v. 17).

Faith acts with confidence in God’s power.

2. Faith believes God is faithful to keep his promises (4:18-22).

Faith acts with confidence in God’s faithfulness.

Hebrews 11:11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

a. Even when things seem hopeless (v. 18)

Abraham hoped in defiance of all human calculations.

Faith acts as if the future is present and as if the unseen is visible.

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

b. Even when considering discouraging facts (v. 19)

Faith acts in the face of circumstances.

c. Even when tempted to doubt (vv. 20-22)

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

> Abraham laughed at God’s promise (Gen. 17:16-19).

> Sarah laughed at God’s promise (Gen. 18:10-15).

Abraham and Sarah’s faith was not a perfect faith. The example of Abraham and Sarah teaches us that faith does not have to be perfect and unfaltering, but it will be the basic conviction that God can be trusted, and actions taken on account of this will show such faith to be genuine. Abraham and Sarah avoided a deep-seated, permanent distrust of God.

> How did Abraham grow strong in his faith?

(1) Abraham was strengthened in faith as he “gave glory to God.”

(2) Abraham grew strong in his faith because he was “fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”

God-glorifying faith is a future-oriented confidence in God’s integrity and power and wisdom to follow through on all his promises. **John Piper**

How do you strengthen your faith?

(1) By growing your personal knowledge of God through the word, prayer, meditation, and worship.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

> Abraham built an altar to the Lord (Gen. 12-7-8).

> David was a man after God’s heart (Acts 13:22).

> Sarah hoped in God (Hb. 11:11).

As we give birth to families and wade into realms of ministry, many of us desire to diligently tend to those in our care. However, we are often so empty because our spiritual supply is dried up. We are left with nothing worthwhile to share with needy souls, let alone our own souls. A woman who hopes in God is well acquainted with the character of the Promiser and the specifics of his promises. She spends time with him in his word and in prayer, and she believes in his gospel and finds shelter in his name. **Amanda Criss - *The Fourfold Beauty of a Godly Woman***

(2) By acting on God’s promises even when it is hard.

The life of faith is not the perfect life; it is the life which clings on to what God has said he will do, and which sees struggles, joys and failures as means of increasing our attachment to the God who makes and keeps his promises. **Tim Keller – *Romans*, p. 106**

(3) By trusting God in various trials (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

1 Peter 1:6–7 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

(4) By waiting on God.

“Waiting is not just about what I get at the end of the wait, but about who I become as I wait.”
Paul Tripp

3. Faith believes God raised Jesus from the dead (4:23-25).

Two acts of God:

> Jesus was handed over by God to death because of our sins.

> Jesus was “raised for our justification.”

To say that Jesus was raised for of our justification is to say that his resurrection authenticates and confirms that our justification has been secured. His work on our behalf has been completed.

Galatians 3:7–9 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.