



**Abraham – The Origin of Grace
God’s Answer to the Sin Nature and the Corruption of Mankind
Romans 4:13-25**

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Romans 4:13–15

“For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, then faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.” (NASB 2020)



Yes, Paul is still using Abraham for his argument and here he kicks off with showing the origins of the revelation of the grace of God, started with the calling of Abraham and the shocking thing Paul adds, is Abraham and his descendants will inherit the world. The Greek word used is kosmou which brings in all the nations.

Paul has begun his defense of grace by contrasting it with the law and then using the law to prove grace has been God's plan from day one.

When he brought Abraham into the discussion, we learn some things we did not fully grasp beforehand. First up is about God's grace, after He had dealt with the rebellion of mankind there at Babel, He stepped out on His own initiative to establish a people for Himself. In His grace, in order to move forward with the plan of redemption, He visited Abraham shortly after the loss of his brother Haran and the remaining family then moving to Haran, a location towards the north.

Of all those who were on the face of the planet at that time, God, in His grace, chose Abraham.

Genesis 12:1–5

"Now the LORD had said to Abram: **"Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. **And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.** Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan." (NKJV)

When Abraham was called by God, was he a believer? No. Was he under the law? No. Was he circumcised? No. What was he other than an old man?

When Abraham was called of God, he was an idol worshipper still trying to figure out life post Babel. He was married but, no kids from the marriage and the clock has advanced way beyond child time. When God called him, He promised "I will make you into a great nation." That implies children. He also promised to bless him and that all the families of the world will be blessed because of him.

Paul is taking the already broadened thoughts about Abraham and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit broadens the promise to inherit the land to, inherit the world. Dr. Moo continues this thought.

"This language does not exactly match any promise to Abraham found in the OT but succinctly summarizes the three key provisions of the promise as it unfolds in Genesis: that Abraham would have an immense number of descendants, embracing "many nations" (Gen. 12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 17:4–6, 16–20; 22:17), that he would possess "the land" (Gen. 13:15–17; 15:12–21; 17:8), and that he would be the medium of blessing to "all the peoples of the earth" (Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18). **Particularly noteworthy is the promise in Gen. 22:17b that Abraham's seed would "possess the gate of their enemies."** Later in the OT, there are indications that the promise of the land had come to embrace the entire world (cf. Isa. 55:3–5), and many Jewish texts speak of Israel's inheritance in similar terms. Against this background—to which we can add Jesus' beatitude, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth"—Paul probably refers generally to all that God promised his people." (Moo 1996, 274)

We tend to forget the reaffirmation of the promise to Abraham made to him in the aftermath of the event involving Isaac and the command to sacrifice him.



Prophetically, Abraham was portraying an event that would later take place at that location when the Father would oversee the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. Further expanding the idea of blessing for Abraham. And it was the preincarnate Christ who repeated the blessing to him.

Genesis 22:15–18

“And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, **“By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”**” (ESV)

Abraham was faithful to the word of God and what he was commanded to do by the Lord. “Is it not interesting that not until God’s last spoken word to Abraham—which is what 22:15–18 is—is an explicit connection made between performance and promise? Every promise to Abraham up to this point has been essentially unconditional. The postponement of the announcement of this cause and effect relationship clearly subordinates performance to promise, works to faith, and merit to grace. In addition, these promises affirm that because of Abraham’s obedience, the blessing of Yahweh will extend far beyond faithful Abraham. They will extend into generations to come. Thus later Israel will partially owe its existence and the blessing of the Lord on its community to the faithful patriarch. (Hamilton 1995, 116)

And one other thing, the point Dr. Moo brought up and which we tend to overlook.

Genesis 22:17

“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. **And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,**” (ESV)

During the reign of David and Solomon, that began to take place, but sin got in the way and ultimately, the kingdom divided into two and both continued spiraling out of control in sin to the eventual end point of exile. But this is a pointer to an end of the age event that we have seen a hint of recently, but after Jesus returns, look out.

Zechariah 14:1–3

“Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. **For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle**, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.**” (ESV)

All of the nations of the world will come together under the Beast in order to destroy God’s people and at that point, after they pray for Him to come and save them, He does and as a result, the enemies of Israel, all the nations of the world, are defeated by Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 63:1–6

“Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? **“It is I, the LORD, announcing your salvation! It is I, the LORD, who has the power to save!”** Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? **“I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors.** I was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So I myself



stepped in to save them with my strong arm, and my wrath sustained me. I crushed the nations in my anger and made them stagger and fall to the ground, spilling their blood upon the earth.” (NLT)

Zechariah 14:4

“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.” (NLT)

Jesus Christ will consolidate all power there in Jerusalem and He will rule the world, at that point, the prophecy of Genesis 22:17 is indeed fulfilled. Dr. McClain expands on this fulfillment as many struggle with a loving God also ruling the planet with an iron rod.

“The shepherdly rule of God is always both severe and tender: lovingkindness toward all who yield to His perfect Will, but chastisement for those who stray from the path of righteousness, and destruction for those who are incorrigibly rebellious. And in the coming Mediatorial Kingdom of Christ this rule will be direct and immediate, no longer veiled in obscurity nor subject to the time-lag which so often now characterizes the working of the divine providential control. In that future Kingdom of Messiah there will be a perfect balance between tenderness and severity. As seen by Isaiah, He will rule with a “strong hand,” but He also shall “gather the lambs ... and carry them in his bosom” (40:10–11).” (McClain 1974, 498)

Zechariah 14:16–19

“Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.” (ESV)

The grace of God results in His ultimate intervention in the life of this planet in the return of Jesus Christ in power to take what He has already paid for, this planet and all on it. “When the Kingdom of Christ arrives, it will not come by a majority vote of the people, nor as a result of international agreements. It will rather be a supernatural action of divine sovereignty, resulting in the glad cry, “We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty ... because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned” (Rev. 11:17).” (McClain 1974, 506-507)

Yes, there is indeed a future. And Paul is building on that here. He has broadened and affirmed what the faithfulness of Abraham has achieved and it was all because of the grace of God and Abraham believing what God told him. This was all not of works, but faithfulness to the word of God. And the big thing the Paul is pointing out here, the faithfulness of Abraham and the promises made to him all predate the giving of the law by hundreds of years.

Romans 4:13

“For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.” (NASB 2020)

Romans 4:14–15

“For if those who are of the Law are heirs, then faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.” (NASB 2020)



Back to those who are relying on religion to make it to heaven. This is Paul restating what he had said a few verses back.

Romans 3:31

“Do we then nullify the Law through faith? Far from it! On the contrary, we establish the Law.” (NASB 2020)

The law empties faith of any value and nullifies the promise. If the law were the governing principle for determining righteousness, faith would be irrelevant. Worse, the law utterly fails to lead to righteousness. (Garland 2021, 164)

Let me give you an example of what the law does and does not do. The law will indeed catch those who are nefarious speeders. Lead footitis will be curbed by the law.

When I was assigned to Cannon AFB in Clovis NM, we were asked by the sheriff's office to run radar on the highway every now and then that divided the base from the housing area. 99% of the time, tractor trailers would, and this is in the dim reaches of time where the speed limit everywhere was 55 mph, would not slow down at all. But fire off the radar gun, and you know who has a radar detector, you can hear the jake brakes from miles around as the trucks drop speed quickly. Did we change behavior, not really. It would slow folks down for a few miles but once they hit Texas, it was off to the races again. But we did indeed identify those who were going too fast. That is all the law can do. Identify, but not cure lead footitis.

There is still that existing problem of the lead foot. The realization that we had radar on them did not suddenly make them turn into a serious non-speeder who will always obey the speed limit. It didn't resolve that at all nor did it spare the driver, if we ticketed them, from the fine and the points that would be charged to their license. Only faith can rescue us from the penalty for our wrongdoing. Only Jesus Christ, who has paid for our sin, can give us a clean slate.

That is, for us, what faith is. We have made the realization that Jesus Christ has completed His work on the cross for us and as the Holy Spirit teaches us that fact and we fully realize it, placing our faith and trust in Christ, He justifies us, making us, before God, as if we have never sinned to begin with.

We are sinners and deserve the justice of God, but Jesus makes it as if we have never sinned. Francis Schaeffer continues, “We must be so careful never to let faith become a work. Faith has no value in and of itself. Faith is the act whereby you raise your empty hands, believe God's promise, and accept the finished work of Jesus Christ on your behalf, whereupon God declares you justified. In legal terms, your sin has ended.

This, as we have seen, is why we can be forgiven of all our sins and yet still live in a moral universe, a universe where moral absolutes are still intact. This is the answer to the problem of a moral universe that no other religion can offer. When He forgives us, God doesn't give up His justice. His perfectly holy character is still the moral absolute that holds our world together. But when we believe God, our guilt is placed upon Jesus Christ. His death covers it. While remaining “just,” He becomes our “justifier” (3:26). And He declares that the legal problem of our sin is resolved for all eternity.” (Schaeffer 1998, 104-105)

I am glad it is not based on what we do. That would lead to strange questions and behavior. When people think works will get them there, or religion, the behavior of that person becomes oriented around that thing they believe will provide them salvation.

How many works do I have to do in order to be saved? Is there a grading scale that I need to follow? How do I know if what I do is good enough? When will I ever know that? That produces fear.



Religion provides this result of fear because you never know. Let me provide you an example of the fear that works or law can produce versus what faith truly does. And the confusion just goes on and on. This is from the book, **101 Questions & Answers on the Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Anointing of the Sick**.

“A confession is called integral, meaning “complete,” when we have confessed all known sins since our last confession. In so doing, we must take care to ensure that we name the exact kind of sin and the number of times it was committed. Depending on the matter, more or less explanation may be necessary so that the priest-confessor knows what it is that he is absolving. For instance, it would be insufficient to simply state that one has sinned against the sixth commandment (“You shall not commit adultery”), or to say that one has sinned against chastity. In such a case, the penitent needs to specify what kind of unchaste sin was committed and how many times.” (Keller 2010, 53)

That makes my head hurt. This is what works produces and it is not freeing at all. The scripture is clear.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (NASB 2020)

The word “confess” is from a Greek word that means, “to say the same thing as.” God has told you what you did wrong, as in, “John, you stole that money.” You confess by saying the same thing: “Yes, it’s true. I stole that money and I agree it was wrong. Please forgive me. (Adsit 2018, 82)

As we confess and agree with the Lord, we also are led by the Holy Spirit to repent, change our mind, turn around and go the other direction, from what we had been doing before. God will indeed forgive us whenever we sin and then confess our sin to Him, but He would prefer to see us stop doing the sin. Now we are talking about the ongoing problem we have with the sin nature, the flesh versus the Spirit.

Romans 8:5–11

“Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. **But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you.** (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) **And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.**” (NLT)

As we come to Christ, we confess our sin to Him and are assured of His forgiveness and right back in relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit will restart the molding process to make us more like Jesus. That is called sanctification and that is where the Holy Spirit will step in and provide the equipping for us to not do that sin again, if we say yes. We repent and turn away from the sin and back to the Lord, and He empowers us to remain in the Spirit and not go back to the flesh.

Romans 4:16–17

“For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (as it is written: “I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY



NATIONS”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, that is, God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that do not exist.” (NASB 2020)

Any adherence to religion, or works, invalidates faith. It means we have fallen into the trap of Satan that we can only maintain our salvation if we “do” something to keep ourselves worthy of it. Don’t go there.

Philippians 1:3–6

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**” (NKJV)

Abraham was saved by faith, so are we. God showed His grace to Abraham, and He does the same for us as well. Abraham was not perfect, neither are we. But for God’s grace.

Paul is telling us that as God revealed His grace to Abraham, He does the same for us as well and it is through faith.

It is God’s intention that the realization of the promise be effected by his grace, and not be based on ethnicity and law observance, and so in this way it ‘may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring’, Gentile as well as Jewish believers. (Kruse 2012, 215)

The promises made to Abraham, which Paul tells us the Jewish leadership believed was theirs alone, is not to be the case. Abraham was saved prior to the law and prior to anything connected with it to include circumcision. He was saved by God’s grace.

Paul found himself having to remind the church at Colossae that in Christ, they are all now part of the promise, and he goes into some details that goes beyond what he says here in Romans.

Colossians 3:9–14

“Never lie to one another; because you have stripped away the old self, with its ways, and have put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in fuller and fuller knowledge, closer and closer to the image of its Creator. **The new self allows no room for discriminating between Gentile and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, foreigner, savage, slave, free man; on the contrary, in all, the Messiah is everything. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with feelings of compassion and with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; if anyone has a complaint against someone else, forgive him. Indeed, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive. Above all these, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together perfectly;**” (CJB)

Dr. Bruce puts it this way. “The barriers that divided human beings from one another are done away with as well. There were racial barriers, like that between Gentile and Jew; this was also a religious barrier, as the reference to circumcision and uncircumcision indicates. There were cultural barriers, which divided Greeks and barbarians—or, in the circumstances of the first century A.D., divided those outside the pale of Graeco-Roman civilization, like the Scythians, from those within. There were social barriers, such as that between slaves and free persons. Outside the Christian fellowship those barriers stood as high as ever, and there were Christians on the one side and on the other. From the viewpoint of the old order these Christians were classified in terms of their position on this side or that of the barriers. But within the community of the new creation—“in Christ”—these barriers were irrelevant; indeed, they had no existence. (Bruce 1984, 148-149)

We see this desire to divide based on all the wrong things in our culture today. But in Christ, we are all His and we are all one in Christ.



Jesus was crystal clear in His final briefing to the disciples.

John 13:34–35

“I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The world knows that we are His church because we love one another. That is not something that they are seeing in the culture today. The culture wants to divide along political lines, racial lines, as well as national lines, citizen versus non-citizen. This all comes from Satan and as we see this increasing today, we also realize it is a sign of the end of the age from what Jesus says in Matthew 24:7. The word translated nation is ethnos.

As followers of Jesus, we are to resist the devil and his attempts to divide and continue to unite in Christ to reach the lost for Him. And the only way any of us come to Christ, is by faith. As we all gather at the foot of the cross, there will be no one who can brag about what they did, we are all the same, sinners in need of a savior.

Our faith, as was Abraham’s, is in the Lord and it is a rational and reasonable faith because God is fully trustworthy. Abraham learned that, and it was demonstrated to us by Jesus Christ on the cross. Looking at the end of verse 17, we find two examples of God’s power which also demonstrates to us, His faithfulness to His promises and our salvation is on a firm foundation in Him.

God is the one who gives life to the dead, we would call that resurrection, and He also created everything out of nothing by His word alone. Paul is addressing the two things that is the concern of everyone prior to coming to Christ, that would be death and nothingness.

But nothingness and death are no problem to God. On the contrary, it is out of nothing that he created the universe, and out of death that he raised Jesus. The creation and the resurrection were and remain the two major manifestations of the power of God. (Stott 2001, 133)

Jeremiah, knowing that Jerusalem was about to fall to Babylon, was asked by the Lord to purchase, redeem a piece of property which under normal circumstances would be a no brainer. But when you are staring in the face destruction of everything, is a hard act of faithfulness. It means that Jeremiah had to believe and have faith in the promises of God that He would indeed return His people back to the land. Nothing is too hard for God.

Jeremiah 32:16–20

“After I had given the copies of the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, ‘**Oh, Lord GOD, you did indeed make heaven and earth by your mighty power and great strength. Nothing is too hard for you!** You show unfailing love to thousands. But you also punish children for the sins of their parents. **You are the great and powerful God whose name is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. You plan great things and you do mighty deeds. You see everything people do. You reward each of them for the way they live and for the things they do.** You did miracles and amazing deeds in the land of Egypt that have had lasting effect. By this means you gained both in Israel and among humankind a renown that lasts to this day.” (NET 2nd ed.)

How big is our God? He is the God of resurrection and life. Back to Abraham.

Romans 4:18–22

“In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, **“SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” Without becoming weak in faith he**



contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." (NASB 2020)

So, we have talked about Abraham's faith in what the Lord told him as God expressed His grace and love to him with the promises that were made. First of all, Abraham believed what God told him and did so eventually arriving at the point of unconditional belief and faith. He did have to grow a bit first and after 75 years of pagan worship, that took a few years until he was fully obedient. But once Lot was out of the house, he was usable.

God promised land, kids, personal blessing, blessing on his descendants, protection for them as well and a Redeemer who would come . Abraham believed that promise and stepped out in faith.

We have God's word and He has made outlandish promises to us as well. Are you and I willing to step out in obedience to those things He has promised? In His grace towards us, God has made promises, and yes, we give acknowledgment to some of them, and others we give a nod here and there, but do we believe them? I mean really believe them to the point that we are willing to take a step of faith? The biggest hurdle has already been dealt with, you and I have come to Christ. Now what?

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen." (NASB 2020)

We are not saved because we have a strong subjective faith (that would focus the matter on us), but because we believe the promises of God regarding salvation, promises made known to us in the pages of the Bible. In other words, Christian faith is a Bible faith. Or, to put it in still other words, we are saved not because of our faith but because of God's promises. True faith is receiving these promises and believing them on the basis of God's character. (Boice 1991-, 479)

That is where Abraham landed and where Paul is driving us to.

What else is it that Abraham had faith in. "That which had been spoken." That would be the word of God. Abraham is an old man with an old wife and no kids and God said, I will make you the father of a nation. And God said, Abraham believed the word of God. He took God completely at His word.

Do we? Where could Abraham go to get support for this promise? There was no one who could assist him to believe this. He believed. We, as followers of Jesus Christ, have the Holy Spirit so we have so much more exponentially to assist us in our faith than he did. But he simply believed Gods word. That is why we teach God's word.

To understand the promises of God, we have to read them and understand them to appropriate them for ourselves. So, here at Calvary Chapel, we study the whole council of God chapter by chapter and verse by verse. At the end of the day thought, you and I have to do the same as Abraham and just believe what God said.

God's word is what tells us we are lost and also provides us the solution to that condition.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life." (NASB 2020)



We believe God's word, and we are saved. And just like with Abraham, it is by faith through grace.

Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God," (ESV)

One more thing about the faith of Abraham. It was realistic. He examined all of the available facts. He was an old man unable to have kids as was his wife. He knew that, yet he believed. Why, because God promised.

Abraham was in an impossible situation that only God could fix and no one else.

I think that the Lord puts us into that position more times than we care to think about. We step out in faith, and if God doesn't show up, we are toast. He shows up and then comes the next step of faith, and we begin to stress out because we have forgotten about the the last 15 times He has already shown up. We look at the circumstances around us this time and think that our faith is irrational, it isn't. Abraham, yeah, I would go with irrational for that one but when you realize who made the promise, not irrational at all.

Think about this one for a moment, God tells Noah, I am going to destroy everything by rain and flood but you, some of your family and a few animals, so build a barge.

Noah is still back there thinking, what is rain? But he too took into account who said it and he believed as well.

Back to Abraham, he never wavered in his faith but grew stronger as time went by. How could he do that?

Romans 4:21

"and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform." (NASB 2020)

Unlike many of the prosperity gospel false teachers today, he does not have faith in faith, he has faith in a person who he knows will always deliver on His promises. We have faith in the same person.

What does true faith look like for us today? It is us keeping our eyes on Jesus and taking Him at His word. Yep, the flesh is indeed weak and the circumstances are pretty much against us, but God has made promises and He stands by them. When we waiver, just look to Jesus. Late one evening, Jesus took a stroll on Galilee, a large inland lake north of Jerusalem. And, His disciples saw Him.

Matthew 14:28–33

"Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." **He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"** When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God.'" (NRSVue)

Peter took a step of faith and then took his eyes off of the Lord. As we step out for Him, let's keep our eyes on Him as Abraham did. Not only that, Abraham, as did Peter, acted on their faith. Peter got out of the boat.

Let's recap. Abraham was the subject of God's grace and he believed in the promises of God. He believed on God's word and nothing else and believed even though the circumstances and facts were telling him, impossible. He knew who he was talking to and what God was capable of doing, so his faith



became stronger over time even as the situation became more impossible. He remained faithful and committed to what God had said. He remained faithful to God's word.

Paul would be in total agreement with the faith of Abraham, he explained the reason why to his protégé, Titus.

Titus 1:1–3

"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, **in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began—in due time he revealed his word** through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior," (NRSVue)

God never lies. We do, but not Him.

Romans 4:23–25

"Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our wrongdoings, and was raised because of our justification." (NASB 2020)

Scripture has relevance for all today. Paul is speaking about the Old Testament and yes, the Old Testament is still relevant today, contrary to what a certain pastor in Atlanta may say.

Paul is convinced of the efficacy of scripture and so are we here at Calvary Chapel. About the Old Testament.

1 Corinthians 10:11

"These things happened to them as examples and were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come." (NET 2nd ed.)

Just as his faith was credited to him as salvation, as followers of Jesus, it is our believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that justifies us. Dr. Schreiner explains.

"The resurrection of Christ constitutes evidence that Jesus has been vindicated. At Jesus's resurrection, God declared that Jesus was in the right (ἐδικαιώθη, edikaiōthē, 1 Tim. 3:16) so that his work on our behalf has been completed. Since believers are united to Jesus Christ in baptism (cf. Rom. 6:1–10), his death is their death and his resurrection is their vindication. Therefore the resurrection of Jesus constitutes their justification. The death and resurrection of Christ fulfill the promise of universal blessing made to Abraham, since they are the means by which all peoples enter into the new people of God. (Schreiner 2018, 252)

And the really good news, we are still invited today to trust Him and believe in what He did for us on the cross.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)



Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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