

## ABRAHAM'S FAITH "From Faith"

### Introduction-

Matt 21:18-22

- 18 Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry.  
19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.  
20 When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked.  
21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.  
22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." NIV

*Who would not want to live at that level of faith? I know I want to, but quite honestly, I've never told a mountain to jump into the sea and seen it happen. As a matter of fact, I don't think I've even tried (which might be part of the problem!). I've had plants wither on me before, but that was probably due more to a lack of gardening skills than it was to an exercise of faith.*

*Jesus taught about mountain moving faith. I don't think he was doing it just for hyperbole. He wants us to move in miracle faith. The question is; how do we get there? I believe that we need to know and nurture our faith's foundation.*

Rom 1:16-17

- 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed **from faith to faith**; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live **by faith**." NAS

*Verse 17 tells us that in the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed **from faith to faith** and that the righteous man shall live **by faith**. Faith has a purpose. It's purpose is to reveal the righteousness of God to us.*

*To better understand these three steps of faith's journey, we are going to look at Abraham, the father of our faith. But first, let's take a closer look at Rom 1:16-17.*

### I. From Faith, To Faith, By Faith- Rom 1:16-17

*Verse 17, "for in it." For in what? The gospel – the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes!*

- |              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. From = ek | draw first circle and line  |
| 2. To = eis  | draw second line and circle |
| 3. By = ek   | draw last line              |

## II. Abraham's Discovery- Rom 4:1-8

1. What matter? - vs. 1

Rom 4:1

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? NIV

*What matter? The matter of justification by faith!*

Rom 3:21-31

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

There is no difference,

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-

26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

29 Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,

30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. NIV

*Chapter 4 of Romans is in essence an explanation of Rom 3:21-31.*

2. Abraham Believed God – vs. 2-3

Rom 4:2-3

2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about-but not before God.

3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." NIV

A. Gen 15:1-7 God's commitment

Gen 15:1-7

1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

2 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."  
6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.  
7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." NIV

B. Gen 15:8-16 God's command

Gen 15:8-17

8 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"  
9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."  
10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.  
11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.  
12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.  
13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.  
14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.  
15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age.  
16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." NIV

C. Gen 15:17-19 God's covenant

Gen 15:17-21

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.  
18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates--  
19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,  
20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,  
21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites." NIV

3. Faith Credited as Righteousness – vs. 3-8

Rom 4:3-8

3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."  
4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.  
5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." NIV

1. Trust in God = Faith

*"Who justifies the wicked" – So then, Abraham's faith had to do with salvation.*

2. David's Confession – Ps. 32:1-11

Ps 32 Of David. A maskil

1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Selah

6 Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

10 Many are the woes of the wicked, **but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.**

11 Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! NIV

Ps 33:4 "For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth."

KJV

### **III. Abraham, the Father of Us All-**

1. The Gospel Preached to Abraham – Gal 3:6-9

Gal 3:6-9

6 Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

7 Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.

8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. NIV

*Abraham was reproductively dead, and yet he had to believe that from him the Messiah would come.*

2. The Gospel Preached to Us – Rom 4:20-25

Rom 4:20-25 NIV

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.

*We were dead in spirit and yet had to believe the Messiah would come into our hearts.*

*The righteousness of God is revealed first of all from faith – a movement from a central, heart trust in God that He has, He does, and He will deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!*