



Topic: Faith in Christ Jesus.

Theme: Calling things that are not as though they are:

Text: Romans 4:16 -25

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Romans 4:16 – 25

"16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." [c] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." [d] 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 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. "

The Bible teaches us that genuine faith is "more precious than gold that perishes" (1 Peter 1:7). In deed such faith is going to be "tested by fire".

What is faith?



- Hebrew 11:1 tells us that :- "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of the things not seen."
- Or we can define faith in Jesus Christ as the saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.
- The Bible teaches us that genuine faith is "more precious than gold that perishes" (1 Peter 1:7). Indeed such faith is going to be "tested by fire".

In this Scripture, we learn that:

1. Faith produces grace.

Romans 4:16 - *Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring*

What is grace?

Grace is the "**Exceptional kindness of God**" towards human beings (sinners) in making their forgiveness and salvation **possible**.

- **John 1:14**, *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** " *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

And this unmerited mercy is always available to those sinners who believe the Gospel and obey the Lord. Acts 11:23

2. Faith helps us to call things that were not as though they are and the become. Vs 17



3. Through faith, God gives life to the dead; He makes things that can not be by all human standard become. Vs 18
4. The blessings that were bequeathed to Abraham have been bequeathed to those that are of the household of faith. Vs 24
5. Abraham was frail and weak:- as though his body was dead but his strong faith opened extraordinary fronts. Sarah was also considered dead because of her age. Vs 19
6. in Vs 20, the bible suggests that probably at his age, Abraham was staggering as he walked but he did not stagger or waver in faith.
7. He had an unequivocal faith that God who had promised to bless him was **do what he had promised**
8. When we have unequivocal faith in God, we are accredited righteousness – through God's grace vs 16.
9. Abraham was imputed righteousness besides his frail weak warbling state of his body. It is upon us to believe in the son who:
 - a. Was raised from the dead
 - b. Who was delivered for our offenses
 - c. Who was offered for our Justification

What faith can do?

1. Faith can heal you Matthew 9:22 , 29
2. Faith in God brings the understanding of his character, will and purpose. Heb 11:3
3. Faith helps us to command situations.



Mathew 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

4. Faith gives us Hope

Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

5. Faith brings salvation.

(Ephesians 2:8,9). Whosoever believes in Him has eternal life. (John 3:16), and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (John 5:24). The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17)

6. Faith brings answers to prayer.

"And whatever things you ask in prayer, really believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22). Since God tells us to pray for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11), faith is therefore a key to our material provision.

7. Faith brings all the benefits of salvation into our lives

Ephesians 2:8,9. This includes healing, prosperity, peace, love, joy (1 Peter 1:8), deliverance from demons and the curse, sanctification of the mind and emotions (the salvation of the soul) and any other benefit which the word of God promises to us.

8. Faith is a spiritual force through which our ministry for Christ becomes effective.

Mark 11:23; Matthew 17:19,20 Faith is a major key to ministry success. It brings to you what you need for your ministry, and by imparting it to others through your life and your ministry of God's Word, you enable them to receive the



blessings of God's grace mentioned above.

9. In particular, faith is the major key for an effective healing and deliverance ministry.

Jesus Christ "the same yesterday, today and forever" lives in the Christian (Hebrews 13:8, Galatians 2:20), and through the Christian wants to reveal the power of salvation to men in a way they can see and feel. In this way, our evangelism concerning the Kingdom of God will not be in talk, but in power (1 Corinthians 4:20).

How to Develop Faith

We see how important faith is. Yet some people despair here, thinking that they don't have faith.

Yet faith comes (Romans 10:17), it can grow and develop. If you are not full of faith today, that doesn't mean you will be that way all your life. You can choose to be a person of faith!

Here are some keys to developing faith.

1. Listen to the Word of God as much as possible.

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). Constant attention to the Word of God produces faith, especially if we attend to it with an open heart and mind. The book of Proverbs encourages us to constantly keep the Word in our hearts and to keep our attention on it (Proverbs 4:20-22).

What we listen to affects what we believe. If we listen to the TV more than to the Word, we will believe the lies of the world more than we will believe what



God says. Constant attention to lies produces deception. Eventually the mind will accept something if that thing is heard often enough and persuasively enough. That is why we should keep hearing the Word of God, through preaching, Christian tapes, confession of the Word, daily fellowship with godly Christians. This will cause us eventually to believe the truth from our hearts.

2. Realize that every believer has been given a measure of faith by God. (Romans 12:3). We just have to use and develop what God has given. We must put it into action.
3. Pray in tongues and be full of the Spirit (Jude 20). We will look at this later. If you have been baptized in the Spirit as the disciples were in the book of Acts, you should pray and praise in tongues often because through this you "edify yourself" (1 Corinthians 14:4) and "build yourself up in your most holy faith". Praying in tongues is a key to being full of the Spirit. Since faith is a fruit of the Spirit, all things things are related together.
4. Obey God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. It is as you walk that you gain strength. God will not reveal greater things to you until you are faithful in the things He is showing you NOW. Therefore obedience to the Spirit and what He is showing you through the Word or through your conscience is important in the development of your faith. You cannot have living faith without taking some practical steps of obedience. Act on what God is saying!
5. Give thanks. Give thanks for the results before you see. Don't complain – that shows you doubt God's love and God's answer to your situation. Give thanks in all situations (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
6. Develop a life of praise and worship. Praise drives the powers of darkness away and brings the throne of God into your circumstances. Praising God is an act of faith and helps your faith to grow. It is commanded (Hebrews 13:15). Worship is admiring God through the Spirit. If you can perceive who is God, His power, faithfulness and love your trust and faith in Him will grow.
7. Spend as much time as you can with people of faith. The spirit of faith on them



will touch your life also (Proverbs 13:20).

8. Speak the WORD. By saying with your mouth you exercise your faith, you hear the Word and you build it into your life. God's Word is anointed and has power when it is spoken to change the spiritual atmosphere (Joshua 1:8; Romans 10:10). Confession of God's Word (saying the same thing as God's word) brings you into the place where the Lord will move to fulfil it (Hebrews 3:1). The angels hearken to the voice of God's Word (Psalms 103:20)
9. Seek holiness, purity of heart. "Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14). It is with the heart that man believes (Romans 10:10). To the extent that the heart has uncleanness, unforgiveness and other bad conditions within, the man will lose the spiritual perception of the Lord which enables his heart to believe. Purity and faith feed each other.
10. Remember that faith works by love.

(Galatians 5:6). The centurion (Matthew 8:5-13) and the woman of Canaan (Matthew 15:21-28) were both motivated by their love for another in coming to Jesus. And both were described as having great faith. Let us believe God for others to be blessed, in a spirit of love, and as we give of our selves God will give blessings to us also (Luke 6:37). This is related to the idea of "seed-faith". Express your faith by planting a seed in terms of some form of giving. God will release a multiplied harvest in return if we endure and do not faint (Hebrews 10:36).