

He Is Able to Perform Romans 4:17-25

Abraham is one of the fascinating characters in the Old Testament. Besides Moses, Abraham is one of the most popular among the Jew. James 2:23, "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." There is not a greater title in all of the world.

Abraham is not known for what he done, but who he knew. Obedience is the determining factor of true love. He never received all the Lord promised. He was not always focused on the when the fulfillment would occur. He just believed God would come through.

Abraham believed every Word of God. Jesus said this about a later generation. Luke 18:8, "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" This verse should speak to our hearts. Faith is a word that is abused in modern Christendom. Dr. John Philips said, "Thus is the principle of faith explained to us. It is simply taking God at His Word and allowing God to be God in any and every situation."

Our text gives the extraordinary life of the friend of God. The passage tells us against hope believed in hope. The word hope found in the Word of God means a confident expectation. When we use the word, it means a chance.

The first was a promise of many nations. Romans four is a promise of justification. Warren Wiersbe said, "The fact that Abraham was justified by grace and not Law proves that salvation is for all men. Abraham is the father of all believers, both Jews and Gentiles (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7, 29). Instead of the Jew complaining because Abraham was not saved by Law, he ought to rejoice that God's salvation is available to all men, and that Abraham has a spiritual family (all true believers) as well as physical family (the nation of Israel). Paul saw the fulfillment of Genesis 17:5, "I have made thee a family of many nations."

In verses eighteen through twenty-two, we see the illustration of the faith of Abraham. The Bible says against hope, Abraham had hope. We cannot comprehend how great the faith of

Abraham was. About one hundred years old he received the promise of a son. The womb of Sarah was dead to reproduction. God gave them the son of promise. The Bible tells us he was not weak in faith. He did not consider his own body. Many of us that are getting older, that is the first thing we consider. How often do we say, "I can't do that anymore." Friends, Abraham believed God.

He did not consider the deadness of Sarah's womb. Sarah was past the age of child bearing. She was more ready for children to come, stay for a while, and then leave. Imagine a 90- and 100-year-old with a toddler. Because of Abraham's faith, righteousness was imputed. How? He simply believed God. Notice Abraham did not stagger at the promise of God. Can we say that?

In the remainder of the chapter Paul, applies this to all of us. He tells us it was not written for his sake, but for us. Our righteousness is filthy rags in the sight of God, but Jesus was delivered for our offenses (sins) and raised for our justification. Scofield said, "Christ died under our sins and now is raised, sitting at the right hand of the Father". Because Jesus suffered, we can be made justified, because He is risen.

He is able to perform what He said. There are many things' people say, without the ability to do them. There has never been a time, or ever will be when the Lord cannot keep His Word. He is able. Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

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