

Romans 4:16-25

4:16-17 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

The promise is of faith that both Jew and Gentile can partake of this blessing and promise. This promise is referring to being “heir of the world.” That is eternal life in the world to come through the righteousness of God (the faith of Jesus Christ).

In Romans 4:17 Abraham is called the father of many nations. Abraham is the father of the Jews (physical, earthly lineage). Abraham is also the father of many nations (spiritual lineage). That is all those that have like faith like Abraham did: believing God’s word.

4:18-22 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

“Who against hope, believed in hope”

Abraham believed in the “unbelievable”. Nature and living by sight told Abraham he would have no child with Sarah. But God told Abraham he would have a child. He believed in the unbelievable (Jeremiah 32:27, Matthew 19:26).

Hope

The Bible defines hope for us and tells us “we are saved by hope” (Romans 8:24-25). See also Galatians 5:5, Titus 1:2, Titus 3:7. Hope purifies us (1 John 3:1-3).

Walking by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)

That means you don’t live a life based upon what you see and current circumstances. You don’t judge or make decisions based upon your current or past circumstances. You don’t live according to “history” or judge things in light of the way things have always been. You base everything on God’s word and you live by that even if current things contradict or don’t “seem” to make sense. It’s a life trusting and believing God in spite of anything and everything.

Examples of walking by faith and not by sight – Abraham, Crossing the Jordan River, Jesus, etc.

What you can believe 100% of the time:

There is not much out there that you can believe and trust 100% of the time. You can say that about man, the government, your family or friends. But you sure can say that about the Holy Bible (Daniel 10:21, John 17:17). In God's word you can hope (Psalm 119:114, 2 Chronicles 20:20, Acts 24:14-15, Isaiah 34:16).

*Every judgment in the Bible is a result of unbelief and disobedience to the word of God.

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief"

Unbelief

Lord I believe, help my unbelief (Mark 9:23-25, Romans 10:17).

See Matthew 13:58, Mark 6:5-6, Romans 11:32, Hebrews 3:12, Hebrews 3:18-19

Strong faith glorifies God (Romans 4:20, Psalm 50:23).