



7/30/25

*Years ago, I wrote a song called "Free to Fly." Today's passage reminds me of the lyrics to that song. The chorus says, "I'm free, free to fly... free to soar with my Savior. I won't believe the devil's lies. I'm free from my chains. You set me free from prison, and only Your love remains. I'm free." I wrote that song about 20 years ago... and today I realize how much God has grown my faith over the years... and I also see how much more I need Him to grow my faith. But thinking back on that song, I am amazed by how incredibly patient and merciful He is!!! From the moment you and I are saved, He declares a hope and a promise over us that He spends the rest of our time on earth accomplishing in us. He doesn't hold grudges, and He doesn't give up. Because of Jesus, you and I are FREE TO FLY. I pray we will live in that freedom today. Amen!*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Romans 4:17-25 ~*

*I have to confess... I have not had a very high opinion of Abraham. This is a man who did not lead his wife well. He had been told by God in Genesis 12 that He would bless Abraham and make him a great nation and make him a blessing. After that, when he and his wife weren't conceiving, he let his wife talk him into having a baby with her servant... because, of course, God needed help to fulfill His promise. NOT. He also gave his wife to two different kings in order to protect himself, having no regard for her wellbeing. Thankfully, God protected her. These are the things I've thought about when I considered Abraham. And I've been wrong...*

*First of all, I'm wrong because I am just as guilty of sin as Abraham was! I need a Savior just as much as he does. And secondly, by judging Abraham I have judged God and totally missed what pleases Him. Abraham was NOT counted righteous because he did everything right. He was counted righteous because he believed God... and he didn't even do THAT perfectly! And yet God blessed him!*

*This is awesome news for me!!! The same blessing of mercy and grace that He poured out on Abraham, He also pours out on me!!! Faith in Christ is what God is looking for in order to bless*

*me... I'm not even required to have perfect faith... Hebrews 12:2 tells me that HE will perfect my faith. My response of faith in Jesus for His sacrifice and redemption is what pleases God.*

*How does my faith grow??? It grows just like Abraham's faith grew. His faith started with hope that God had the power to keep His promise that he would become the father of many nations. That was the seed of faith God planted.*

*The odds were totally against Abraham. He was already 75 years old when God made that promise! Sarah was 65... way past the age of childbearing. (Maybe that's why she gave her servant to Abraham... Hagar was still able to get pregnant. But God does things so that we know it could only have been Him.)*

*Abraham was about 100 years old when God actually fulfilled His promise by giving him and Sarah a baby... Isaac. This was NOT at the time before the flood when people lived hundreds of years. This was after the flood. Abraham "was as good as dead" when he and Sarah finally conceived. But "he did not weaken in faith" even when he was weak in body.*

*I would have to say... Instead of judging Abraham's actions, I should be judging my faith. Would I wait 25 years for a promise of God to be fulfilled without weakening in my faith? O Lord, I so easily let my circumstances dictate my trust in You rather than letting my trust in You dictate my view of my circumstances. Please grow my faith!!! I can look at Abraham's example to see how this faith grows.*

*"No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised." Abraham did not waiver in unbelief. BUT he grew strong in faith AS he gave glory to God. It does not say... "God gave him faith and THEN Abraham gave Him glory." This is what it's saying... The more Abraham gave God glory, the more his faith in God grew. Abraham had unwavering, absolutely confident trust that God would keep His promise, no matter how long it took.*

*This is why God counts faith as righteousness! It is far more righteous in God's eyes to give Him glory because I trust Him than it is to DO all the right things. I can NEVER do all the right things perfectly. But I CAN trust in the One who does all the right things perfectly.*

*With God, I can "hope against hope" that He is going to keep His promises. Like Abraham, I can have the confident expectation and the absolute certainty that God, who holds the universe together by the word of His power, is not bound by any part of His creation. He can bend time. He can stop the sun from moving. He can raise the dead. He can place life in the womb of a woman beyond the ability to conceive. And He can put the seed of His own Son in the womb of a woman who has never been with a man. Nothing is impossible with God.*

*In case I'm thinking that God reserves this kind of faithfulness to His promises only for certain people, vs. 23-25 teach me that He shows NO partiality. "But the words 'it was counted to him' were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who*

*believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." God is NEVER looking at my works to determine my value. My good works will never make me so good that I don't need His mercy and grace, and my bad works will never make me so bad that He refuses to give me His mercy and grace. Praise His name!*

*Jesus was delivered up to death to pay for my trespasses, first and foremost, for my lack of faith. He was raised from the dead so that I could be forgiven all the debt of my trespasses AND justified before Him... acquitted of my guilt and counted righteous, approved, as innocent as Jesus... before Him.*

*O Lord, what is the one thing I need to DO as an act of faith? Give You the glory, the honor, the worship You deserve. What happens when I give You glory based on the mustard seed of faith that I have? You grow my faith... and I give You even more glory. Instead of focusing on what I struggle to believe, please help me to step out in faith for the things I DO believe about You... Help me to give You the glory for what I DO understand... and You will grow my faith more and more. In this I place my hope... my confident expectation, my absolute certainty... You are my righteousness. You are my freedom. I will place my trust in You, viewing my circumstances through the lens of Your faithfulness, and not measuring Your faithfulness through the lens of my circumstances. May it be so.*