

## "THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM"

### Genesis 15:6

#### INTRODUCTION

- One of the greatest men in history has to be the patriarch Abraham...
- Three religions look to him as their spiritual progenitor (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)
- Christians view him as "the father of all them that believe"
  - **Romans 4:11**
  
- What is most noteworthy about Abraham was his faith...
- Paul made reference to his faith time and again
  - **Romans 4:3,9,11,16-22;**
  - **Galatians 3:7-9**
  
- James used his example to illustrate saving faith
  - **James 2:21-23**
  
- Both Paul and James make reference to the following OT statement about Abraham's faith:
  - **"And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."**
    - **Genesis 15:6;**
    - **Romans 4:3;**
    - **James 2:23**
  
- What was it about Abraham's faith that so pleased God?
- Do we have the same kind of faith? Let's take a closer look at "**The Faith of Abraham**"

#### I. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS BASED ON REVELATION

- **GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO ABRAHAM...**
  - In Ur of the Chaldees
    - **Acts 7:2-4;**
    - **Genesis 15:7**
  - At Haran of Mesopotamia
    - **Genesis 12:1-4**
  - At Shechem in Canaan
    - **Genesis 12:6-7**
  - After Lot moved to Sodom
    - **Genesis 13:14-17**
  - And many times more
    - **Gen 15:1-17; 17:1-27; 18:1-33; 22:1-19**
- **By revealing Himself to Abraham, God provided Abraham ample evidence for him to place his faith and trust in God**
  
- **OUR FAITH MUST BE BASED UPON REVELATION...**
  - Not that God reveals Himself to us as He did to Abraham
  - But faith comes through the Word of God
    - **Romans 10:17**

- o It contains evidence that we might believe
  - [John 20:30-31](#)
- o The more we read, the more God is revealed to us, especially in the person of His Son Jesus Christ!
- o **If we desire to have "The Faith of Abraham", we must be receptive to God's revelation of Himself through His Word!**

## II. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS AN OBEDIENT FAITH

- **BY FAITH, ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD...**
  - o He left his country
    - [Hebrews 11:8](#)
  - o He sojourned in a foreign land
    - [Hebrews 11:9-10](#)
  - o He offered his son Isaac
    - [Hebrews 11:17](#)
    - [James 2:21-24](#)
- **Abraham's faith was not a dead faith, but a dynamic faith expressing itself in obedience!**
  - [James 2:20,26](#)
- **BY FAITH, WE MUST OBEY GOD...**
  - o For the gospel calls for "obedience to the faith"
    - [Romans 1:5; 16:25-26](#)
  - o We must "obey from the heart" the doctrine of Christ
    - [Romans 6:17](#)
  - o Woe to those who do not "obey the gospel"
    - [2 Thessalonians 1:7-9](#)
    - [1 Peter 4:17](#)
- **If we desire to have "The Faith Of Abraham", we must have a faith that "works through love"**
  - [Galatians 5:6](#)
- While works are an essential element of a saving faith, it is crucial to note that it is the faith behind the works that pleases God (and not the works per se)! Therefore, we must remember that:

## III. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS A TRUSTING FAITH

- **ABRAHAM TRUSTED IN GOD, NOT HIS WORKS...**
  - o Return to our text, and note what is said
    - [Genesis 15:6](#)
      - Abraham believed in the Lord
      - "It" (his faith) was reckoned or considered for righteousness
      - It was Abraham's faith in God that greatly pleased God. Paul stresses this point in his epistle to the Romans
        - [Romans 4:1-3](#)
          - Abraham was not justified because of his works
          - Abraham was justified (declared blameless) because of his faith!
  - o **Though he had a faith that works, he did not trust in his works; rather in God who justifies the ungodly**

- [Romans 4:5-8](#)
- **WE MUST TRUST IN JESUS, NOT OUR WORKS...**
  - As noted before, we must obey God which involves certain "works"
    - Such as faith, which is a "work"
      - [John 6:28,29](#)
    - Even baptism, which is more a work of God than a work of man
      - [Colossians 2:12-13](#)
  - But when all is done, we must not put our trust in our obedience as though we somehow earned our salvation
  - For Christ taught us to realize we are still unworthy
    - [Luke 17:10](#)
  - **It is the faith or trust in Jesus prompting us to obey that pleases God, not some meritorious value of the work done to receive God's grace!**
- So "The Faith of Abraham" was an obedient faith that placed its trust in God who justifies the ungodly. To be "the sons of Abraham", we must have the same kind of faith.

#### **IV. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS A GROWING FAITH**

- **ABRAHAM GREW IN FAITH...**
  - There were times when his faith was weak
  - He had Sarah, his wife, tell a half-truth to save his life
    - [Genesis 12:11-20; 20:1-18](#)
  - He questioned God when he and Sarah did not have children
    - [Genesis 15:2-3](#)
  - He showed weak faith in the case of Hagar
    - [Genesis 16:1-4](#)
  - He offered an alternative to God when he thought it would be impossible for he and Sarah to have children
    - [Genesis 17:17-18](#)
- But God was patient with Abraham, and his faith grew
  - He had faith, even against hope, and was able to conceive
    - [Romans 4:18-22](#)
  - He had faith that God could raise Isaac from the dead, and so was willing to offer him as commanded
    - [Hebrews 11:17-19](#)
- "The Faith of Abraham" was not a static faith, but an ever-growing faith that came through being "a friend of God"
  - [James 2:23](#)
- **WE MUST GROW IN FAITH...**
  - Just as the apostles of Christ did...
  - From men with little faith and easily afraid
    - [Matthew 8:25-26; 14:31](#)
  - To men of great boldness
    - [Acts 4:13](#)
  - Like the Thessalonians
    - [2 Thessalonians 1:3](#)
  - Their faith was growing exceedingly
  - Our faith needs to grow likewise

- Our faith will grow, if we are willing to "walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had"
- [Romans 4:12](#)

## CONCLUSION

- We have seen that "**The Faith of Abraham**" was...
  - Based upon revelation
  - An obedient faith
  - A trusting faith
  - A growing faith
- Why do we need this same kind of faith...?
  - Because "those who are of faith are the sons of Abraham"
    - [Galatians 3:7](#)
  - Because "those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham"
    - [Galatians 3:9](#)
- Indeed, those who have "**The Faith Of Abraham**" are truly the recipients of the promise made to Abraham:
  - "**In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**"
    - [Genesis 18:18](#)
- By walking in the same manner and faith demonstrated by Abraham, we are grafted in and adopted into the covenant forged between Abraham and God through the fulfillment of the atonement and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Are we walking in the steps of the faith of Abraham, obeying the Word of God given today through the gospel of Christ, even as he obeyed the word given to him?