

Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Thursday, February 25

Study

Genesis 17:7

⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Our New Testament passage and Old Testament passage form a very helpful connection for us to understand what a good life before God is all about. Paul tells us clearly that a good life before God is all about faith. He reminds us that we see this at the beginning of the Scriptures in Genesis when God is making promises to Abraham. Abraham's righteousness before God had nothing to do with his good manners, moral compass, worship habits, or circumcision practices. Instead, "he believed the Lord, and God counted it to him as righteousness," (Genesis 15:6). So, God was working to create faith in the hearts of his people from the get go, and he hasn't changed his goals or his methods since. On top of that, there are at least two ways that Christ fulfills these promises that were made to Abraham in the book of Genesis.

First, Christian believers from every nation are considered children of Abraham. We are not biologically Abraham's kids as if we were Jewish, but we share the same faith! So, the same grace that Abraham received from God is guaranteed to us who are children of Abraham through faith. So, Abraham has become the father of many nations through the work of the gospel. Paul explains this further when writing to the Galatians. This brings us to the second way that Christ fulfills these promises to Abraham. God gave Abraham promises and not commandments. He didn't tell him what to do, but he told Abraham what was going to be done. Paul recognizes that these promises were made to Abraham's offspring. "It does not say, 'And to offsprings, as if referring to many, but referring to one, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ," (Galatians 3:16). Paul realizes that all the promises actually come to Christ alone who is the Son of God. We might think, "Well, where does that leave us!? I thought we were the nations that were promised to Abraham?" It's true, Jesus receives all the promises, but Jesus receives us so that we can receive the promises in him. "For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith," (Gal. 3:26). So, we come back to where we started. A good life before God has everything to do with faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sake. For he is the one who receives and fulfills the promises that were made to Abraham.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, thank you for passing down your promises from generation to generation. You have been working faith in the hearts of your people for thousands and thousands of years. Continue that work in us and our families we pray in Jesus' name, Amen