

Faith Always Glorifies God

(Rom 4:18-22)

- We've considered the ways in which faith enabled Abraham in the negative: 1)He was allowed to continue weak in it, 2)He staggered not at the promise

I. Positive work of faith

A) V.20- Being (made) strong in faith Abraham glorified God

1. Abraham heard the staggering promise of God, he looked at the impossible conditions physically, and yet didn't stop there, he went on to look at God!
 - i. V.21- He was fully confident God was able to do the impossible
 - ii. Thus faith glorifies God

B) How does faith glorify God?

1. Faith contemplates the attributes of God (and doesn't stop with self)

- i. Ex 3:14- "I AM that I AM"
 - a) All the titles of God in scripture glorify His attributes
 - 1) Gen 22:14- **Jehovah Jireh**: The LORD our provider
 - 2) Ex 15:26- **Jehovah Rapha**: The LORD our Healer
 - 3) Ex 17:15- **Jehovah Nissi**: The LORD our Banner
 - 4) Jud 6:24- **Jehovah Shalom**: The LORD our Peace
 - 5) Psa 23:1- **Jehovah Raah**: The LORD our Shepherd
 - 6) Jer 23:6- **Jehovah Tsidkenu**: The LORD our Righteousness
 - 7) Ezek 48:35- **Jehovah Shammah**: The LORD is Here
 - ii. Faith concludes that God is:
 - a) Omnipotent- Gen 18:14- "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
 - b) Omniscient- Heb 4:13- "All things laid bare" before God
 - c) Omnipresent- Psa 139:7-10- "If I ascend to heaven..."
 - d) Righteousness- Tit 1:2- "God that cannot lie..."
 - e) Holiness- Hab 1:13- "thou art too holy to behold iniquity"
 - f) Glorious- 1 Tim 6:16- "Dwelling in the light which no man can approach"
 - g) Unchangeable- James 1:17- "No variableness, neither shadow of turning"
 - iii. Because faith believes all the attributes of God, faith concludes:
 - a) No promise of God is made loosely or on a whim, all things are considered
 - b) God is able to do anything He wills
 - c) God doesn't change His mind

2. Heb 11:6- Thus faith glorifies God!

- i. There can be nothing more insulting to God than than unbelief
 - a) Heb 3:12- “Evil heart of unbelief”
 - ii. Rom 4:20-21- Abraham gave the glory to God- “God is able”
- II. Degrees of faith
 - A) Rom 4:19-20- “weak in faith.....strong in faith”
 - 1. The scriptures use examples that are fully developed and profitable for edification, rather than the smaller and more discreet ones
 - i. Thus the great faith of Abraham is made the example (father) of faith
 - a) It would be far less helpful to dissect faith in its embryo stage, yet it does pass thru that stage
 - ii. Matt 13:31-32- From mustard seed to great tree
 - a) Weak faith
 - 1) Matt 8:26- “Thou of little faith”
 - 2) Matt 14:31- Peter’s “little faith”
 - 3) Luke 8:25- “Where is your faith”
 - 4) Mark 9:24- “I believe, help mine unbelief”
 - 5) Rom 14:1- “Him that is weak in faith”
 - (a) Consider Abraham’s faith in the early stages when he was halted at Haran
 - b) Mature faith
 - 1) Matt 8:10- “I have not found so great faith in Israel”
 - 2) Matt 15:28- “Great is thy faith”
 - 3) Heb 10:22- “Full assurance of faith”
 - 4) Heb ch 11- The “champions of faith”
 - (a) Consider Abraham’s faith on Mount Moriah when he offered Isaac
 - B) Weak faith is still faith nonetheless
 - 1. The strength of a baby is nothing compared to that of an adult, yet it cannot be said that the child has no strength
 - 2. Heb 11:1-2- Faith is a substance, and a minute trace of the substance is of the same strain and quality of the fully manifested amount
 - 3. Faith (in whatever degree) comes from God
 - C) Factors that affect faith
 - 1. Knowledge of God
 - i. Rom 10:17- “Faith cometh b y hearing”
 - 2. Application of the faith we already possess
 - i. John 13:17- “If ye know these truths, happy are ye if ye do them”
 - a) We must put our portion of faith to work, rely upon it, venture out upon it
 - 1) In the boat, the apostles didn’t apply the little faith they had

2) Example of Indiana Jones over the ravine

III. Faith is no fool-heartedness

- A) This is a distinction that needs to be made today because of the “faith healing” teachings
1. James 5:13-14- Taken out of context and applied in every situation
 - i. This teaching says that it is never the will of God that any of His children should be sick, and that sickness is simply a lack of faith
 - a) They say “healing is in the atonement”
 - 1) 1 Cor 11:30- God often uses sickness as chastisement
 - 2) Phil 2:27-30- Epaphraditus was sick “nigh unto death”
 - 3) Gal 4:13- Paul in “infirmity”
 - 4) 2 Cor 12:6-7- “My grace is sufficient for thee”
 - b) This teaching is very dangerous because a person believes it and then gets sick, or has a loved one sick, and it causes them to doubt God
 - 1) Example of Andrew Murray and his struggles over his nephew’s TB
 - c) We must be completely clear about the promises of God concerning us, as Abraham was certain about the promises made to him
 - 1) Mark 16:15-18- Same type example of misapplied promises
 - B) Faith is also not a “just do it” attitude
 1. “Believe and receive” teaching, or “name it and claim it”
 - i. Mark 11:22-24- Misuse of this verse out of context
 - a) 1 John 5:14- “Ask according to His will”
 2. These false teaching say we operate by faith in all situations in life, for example, we have faith in an airplane, or an automobile when we get in them
 - i. But this isn’t faith, it is simply playing the mathematical odds
 - C) Faith is a gift of God, and it never is interested in self, and always glorifies God and not man (same as the Spirit)
 1. Faith never brags on self and proclaims “I am a man of faith”
 2. Faith is the tool/means which God chose to work out His will in man