

WRITTEN TEACHING

The Faith of Our Father Abraham

On the faith that trusts God beyond what can be seen — how Abraham believed the God who gives life to the dead, and why righteousness always comes before the sign.

Romans 4 • Genesis 15 • 17

Abraham is more than a figure from ancient history. He is the pattern of a life that trusts God beyond what can be seen, measured, or explained. Scripture calls him the father of all who believe because his faith reveals a timeless truth: God brings life where there is death, and He fulfills His word even when every natural circumstance says otherwise.

This is not the story of vague optimism. It is the story of a man who believed a very specific word from a very faithful God. Abraham's faith was shaped by promise, tested by impossibility, and strengthened by the character of the One who spoke to him.

The Promise of God

When the Lord appeared to Abraham, He did not merely offer comfort. He entered into covenant with him and declared that he would become the father of many nations. This promise was not abstract. It was tied to real offspring, real inheritance, and the unfolding purpose of God through Isaac and, ultimately, through Christ.

But the promise came into a human situation that seemed incapable of bearing it. Abraham was old, Sarah was barren, and the ordinary path to fulfillment had long since been closed. By every natural measure, the word of God appeared impossible.

Yet God often speaks in such a way that only faith can receive what He has said. He does not wait for visible evidence before He declares His purpose. He speaks first, and faith learns to agree with Him.

The Faith That Was Required

Paul shows us that Abraham's faith was not merely general belief in God. It was faith in the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. That is a deeper kind of trust. It believes not only that God exists, but that He can create life in places where death has already settled in.

Abraham had to believe God in the face of his own body, which was "as good as dead," and Sarah's womb, which was likewise dead to childbearing. The promise did not deny reality, but it stood above reality. Abraham did not pretend the situation was different from what it was. Instead, he trusted that God was greater than what he could see.

This is the posture of mature faith. It does not lean on appearance. It leans on the word of God.

Faith and Righteousness

Paul also uses Abraham to show how righteousness comes. Abraham was counted righteous before he was circumcised, not after. This matters because it proves that righteousness is received by faith, not earned by outward works or religious marks.

Circumcision was not the source of Abraham's right standing before God. It was the seal of a righteousness already received. In other words, the sign came after the substance. The visible mark followed the invisible reality.

This is one of the great clarifying truths of Romans 4. If righteousness were a reward for labor, it would be debt. But the gospel is not built on debt. It is built on grace. God justifies the ungodly who believe in Him, and their faith is counted to them for righteousness.

The Blessedness of Grace

David's testimony confirms the same truth. Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven, whose iniquities are covered, and to whom the Lord does not impute sin. This is not a description of a person who has earned divine approval. It is the description of a person who has received mercy.

That is the wonder of righteousness by faith. God does not merely overlook sin. He covers it, forgives it, and counts the believer as righteous. He clothes the one who trusts Him with His own righteousness.

Abraham therefore stands as a witness to grace. His story teaches us that God's favor is not bought by performance. It is given to faith.

Substance Before Shadow

Circumcision was a sign, not the source. It pointed to something already true. That pattern runs throughout Scripture: the substance always comes before the shadow. A shadow cannot exist without something real casting it.

This is why the Old Testament signs and sacrifices find their meaning in Christ. The Lamb of God was not an afterthought. The cross was the historical unveiling of a redemption already settled in the heart of God before the foundation of the world. The visible sacrifice came after the eternal purpose.

The same pattern appears in the Garden. When Adam and Eve sinned, God Himself provided their covering. Even there, before the full unfolding of redemption, God showed that He is the One who covers shame and provides sacrifice. From the beginning, He revealed that salvation would come through His own provision.

The Knowledge That Becomes Faith

Faith is never meant to be blind. It comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. That means faith has a source. It grows out of true knowledge. Abraham did not simply decide one day to believe in a God he did not know. His faith was formed through a growing understanding of who God is.

That is why confidence in God becomes stronger the more our knowledge of Him deepens. The more we know His character, the more steadily we trust His word. Faith is not guesswork. It is not wishful thinking. It is the settled response of a heart persuaded that God is true.

Job spoke this way when he said, "I know that my Redeemer lives." He was not speaking from emotion alone, but from conviction. Faith stands on the truth it has come to know.

Our Inheritance in Abraham

We are called the children of Abraham because we share his faith. Whatever our situation may be, we believe the God who raises the dead and calls things that are not as though they already are. That is our inheritance.

This means we do not have to surrender to what looks final. If God has spoken, then the situation is not finished. If God has promised, then impossibility is not the end of the story. Abraham teaches us to trust God in the very place where hope seems to fail.

His faith was not denial. It was confidence. He was fully persuaded that what God had promised, God was also able to perform. That is the kind of faith that honors God.

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. That same God still calls us to believe Him today. He still brings life out of death. He still speaks with authority over what has not yet come into view. And He still counts faith as righteousness to all who trust Him.

So let us learn to stand where Abraham stood. Let us believe God not only when circumstances are favorable, but when everything in the natural seems to oppose the promise. The God of Abraham is still faithful, and His word still stands.

In the name of Jesus.

✦ Branch of Righteousness

“I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one.” — John 17:23

© Branch of Righteousness · Built on Scripture, walking through Beyond the Veil