

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

¹⁷ As it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU" in the presence of God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;

²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

²¹ and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

²² Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(Romans 4:17-22)

Abraham's Faith

1. The God in whom he believed

- the God who is able to do what is humanly impossible, yet vital to fulfilling the promise ("*gives life to the dead*")
- the God who is able to call into being things which do not exist (i.e., Abraham's seed)

Abraham's Faith

2. The circumstances in which he believed

- "against hope" – he believed in the face of humanly/naturally impossible circumstances
- "in hope" – in spite of his circumstances, he believed because of the certainty of God's promise

Abraham's Faith

3. The constancy of his belief

- he avoided a deep-seated and permanent attitude of distrust in the promise of God
- his faith was strengthened in and by the promise of God

Abraham's Faith

4. The basis of his belief

- he was fully assured that God was able to do what He had promised
- this faith only gives glory to God and is reckoned as righteousness

Abraham's Faith

- The example of Abraham – encouragement, caution, and Christ