

Faith Works

Romans 4:18-22

Sermon Outline

A. Keep Hope Alive (vs. 18):

1. Hope – Abraham had a favorable and confident expectation that God would provide a great nation. The specific quality of hope being the expectation in reference to fulfillment of God's promises.
2. Against; By side, Against - Beyond all human possibility or logic.
3. Believe – Abraham had a deep commitment in God because He was completely confident that God would do what He said He will do. He constantly lived with this expectation.
4. Believe – Abraham totally understood the human limitations he faced but his conviction in God made him look beyond the difficulties to the possibilities.
5. Might become; Done – Abraham's conviction caused him to have complete confidence that God was going to bring into existence from nothing the birth of a great nation.

a) Notice these key things:

- He believed when there was no hope.
- He did not become weak in faith.
- He did not waiver in unbelief.
- He grew in his convictions.
- His faith demonstrated the glory of God.
- He was fully assured God could perform.

6. Spoken - God provided to Abraham a complete statement that disclosed His inward thoughts (He did not have a written word) about the promise He commits to fulfill.

B. Remove Doubt (vs. 19; James 1:6-9):

1. Becoming weak – When it comes to God's promise to Abraham of a great nation Abraham, once and for all, did not falter at any given moment. He did laugh when God said through Sarah, because of her age [this could be why he asked about Eliezer (Genesis 15:2) and slept with Hagar (Genesis 16) so easily]. This does not mean that he did not believe that God would do what He said He will do.
2. Becoming weak – Abraham did not become timid about this matter. In other words he did not get frustrated and go back home.

3. Faith – What God said to Abraham about the nation of Israel became a deep conviction with intense trust in God.
4. Faith – When Abraham left Haran, because of God’s divine Word, he was completely surrendered to God’s Word and as a result remained steadfast in obeying God’s will.
5. Contemplated – Abraham carefully and thoroughly examined his circumstances and came to a clear complete understanding of what was taking place.
6. Now as good as dead – Included in Abraham’s thorough evaluation he believed his body had completely ceased from producing children.
7. Deadness of Sarah’s womb – Abraham’s deadness is directly connected to the deadness of Sarah’s womb.
8. With respect to the promise of God - With respect to the covenant, God’s commitment to Abraham is a legally binding relationship that is totally dependent on the person who is executing it. Abraham viewed this as a pledged that God is certain to fulfill.
9. Did not waver; stagger; doubt – Abraham did not try to judge whether or not God is capable of fulfilling His promises or not.
10. Did not waver; stagger; doubt – Because this is a covenant Abraham not to vacillate between his circumstances (described in verse 19) and the promises of God.
11. Unbelief – Abraham did not demonstrate a lack of confidence but fully trusted God to fulfill His promises.
12. Grew strong – Abraham gained the inward ability to intellectually become competent to deal with all the circumstances he was experiencing.
13. Faith – Abraham’s commitment to God that caused him not to waver in unbelief, which in turn triggered his inner commitment to God to become stronger, only deepened his trust and conviction in God’s ability to do what He said He will do.

C. True Faith Works and Gives God Glory (vs. 20c-21):

1. Give – Abraham’s faith, once and for all, became a permanent display of who God is.
2. Glory to God – Abraham’s deep conviction and total surrender to God’s promises exposed God’s excellent divine nature to everyone.
3. Being fully persuaded – God had completely established and confirm His powerful presence with Abraham so that he was completely convinced that God is able.
4. Fully persuaded - Abraham was fully, continuously, and completely committed that God will bring to the fullest measure what He promised to do. There was no room for doubt. It calls for complete capitulation to the power and goodness of God.
5. What God had promise – Abraham becoming fully persuaded, because of

what God pledged and declared He was completely committed to fulfill.

6. He was able – Abrahams complete surrender to God, rooted in a deep trust in God's promises is directly correlated to his conviction that God has supreme almighty power to do what He said He will do.
7. Able - He was completely convinced that God has the expert capability, special competence and supreme power which is directed only from God almighty.
8. Perform; Do practice – God's power brings forth actions that is not dependent on anything or anyone.
9. Perform; Do practice – God's power is brought about by His inward act of His will.