

Abraham: The Father of Faith, Part 1

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: Abraham is the father of our faith because he received and believed the original promises of God that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Abraham is considered the father of faith, not because he was the first man to have faith or the first one to receive a promise about Jesus. There were many others that came before him. He is considered the father of faith (see Romans 4:12) because he is the representative example of one having faith in God's promises and who received a portion of promises without anything to boast about. He fathered a son in his old age, being "as good as dead" (Romans 4:19). So, he couldn't boast in his flesh (his bodily strength or virility). Nor could he boast in his spirit because he was not righteous within himself, he needed to be counted righteous by God (v. 3, see Genesis 15:6).

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 4:1-8** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in part 1 of the sermon entitled "Abraham: The Father of Faith."

DIG IN

1. Abraham: The Promise of Righteousness (Romans 4:1-3)

Read Genesis 12:1-7: What did God promise Abram? What was the initial command given to Abram?

Read Genesis 17:1: What is the command God gives to Abram? In what ways is that command connected to righteousness?

Read Hebrews 11:8-9: According to these verses, did Abraham's obedience precede faith? Or did his faith precede obedience? Why is that important?

2. David: The Blessing of Righteousness (Romans 4:6-8)

In what ways does King David's existence and reign over all Israel prove that God has kept his promise to Abram (see Genesis 12:1-7)?

What are the blessings named in verses 7-8? In what ways do these blessings tie to our righteousness before God?

3. The Ungodly: Accounted Righteous through the same Faith (Romans 4:4-5)

According to verse 5, what or who justifies the ungodly? Why is this important?

Why would working for our justification produce boasting in what we have earned (see v. 4)? Why can no one boast in their righteousness?

In what ways does our being counted righteous through faith speak of God's power to do the impossible?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?