

**PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE  
#03 – ABRAHAM'S POSITIVE IMPACT  
THE FATHER OF OUR FAITH  
ROMANS 4:1-5; 16-25; GALATIANS 3:1-9**

**Introduction**

We are in the third week of this series looking at SOME ONES (That is, SOME INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE) WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE! We're talking about **the impact people had that we can look back in Scripture and see!**

But we are also talking about **the impact that each of us can have on this world while we are here!** Even if we are a "nobody" as far as name recognition in this world is concerned, both our words and/or our actions can have a far reaching impact that we may not understand or even see until we are with the LORD in eternity.

(e.g. Again, we gave the 19<sup>th</sup> century example of a seemingly insignificant Sunday School teacher who was determined to win his Sunday School class to the Lord. A young D.L. Moody was a teen in that Sunday School teacher's class who would nod off as he taught the class. Undeterred, he went to the shoe store where D.L. Moody worked and won him to Christ—That teacher's name—Edward Kimball!)

Think about the people in your own life who have made a difference either in a positive way or a negative way! We know that each of our lives HAVE BEEN TOUCHED OR INFLUENCED by others! But at the same time understand that, each of our lives can and do TOUCH or INFLUENCE OTHERS!

Thus far we have seen one who had a negative impact—The first man Adam, who through one disobedient act, plunged all of mankind after him into the darkness of sin! (That's about as far reaching of an impact as you can get!)

Last week we saw the positive example of Noah whom God used to save life on the earth and give the earth a new beginning!

Today I want to look at the one who became the Father of our Faith!

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**I. ABRAHAM SHOWED US THAT SALVATION WAS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH!  
God's Method Is And Always Was And Always Will Be By Grace Through Faith!**

**Paul Is Making The Point Here That No Self-Righteousness Is Accepted With God! (Romans 4:1)**

*Isaiah 64:6—“But we are all as an unclean thing. . .”*

**Paul Shows That Abraham Was Justified By Faith! (Romans 4:2-3)**

The Rabbis taught that Abraham had a surplus of merit from his works that was available to his descendants.

Paul built on that idea and agreed that, assuming that Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about.

But, Paul insisted, his boasting could only be before other people, not before God. If a person could establish his righteousness by works—though that is impossible—he could never boast of it in God's presence.

Paul then turned to an authority his readers would acknowledge and asked the question. *“For what saith the Scripture?”*

He quoted Genesis 15:6, which states that **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

Because he believed God, God imputed righteousness to his account (*“counted”* is an accounting term). **Galatians 3:1-9**

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**II. ABRAHAM SHOWED US HOW TO BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS IN SPITE OF THE SEEMING IMPOSSIBILITY!**

- A. He Had A Faith That Hoped Even When Everything Seemed Hopeless! (Vs 18)**
- B. He Had A Faith That Believed God Could Do That Which Defies Even Nature! (Vs 19)**  
**Abraham Considered Not His Own Body Now Dead... Neither Yet The Deadness Of Sarah’s Womb.**

i.e. He didn’t take into account the natural circumstances that told him it was impossible for him and Sarah to have a child.

He did not let those circumstances influence his faith. He chose rather to believe God and rest on the promise of God!

When you’re believing to receive the fulfillment of a promise from God, you can’t concentrate on your natural circumstances, you must concentrate on God!

Abraham’s faith was not weak. The word “*weak*” means, “*to be feeble, to be diseased, impotent, sick, etc.*” A lot of people have diseased faith. Abraham’s faith was not sick but well.

Abraham’s faith was so strong that he didn’t consider the fact that both he and Sarah were beyond the age of having children.

God promised him that they would have a son, and Abraham didn’t even blink an eye!

- C. He Had A Faith That Grew Stronger As It Was Exercised! (Vs 20)**

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We need to understand that Abraham had to grow to this point in his faith. Look at **Genesis 12:1-2; 15:1-6; 16:1-2; 17:4-8; 15-21; 18:10-14.**

He did not allow the obstacles that were in front of him stop him from believing God.

Read **Romans 4:20.** It says that Abraham “*staggered not.*”

We read in Genesis 18 where Sarah laughed at the idea of bearing a child at her age. But Abraham wasn’t laughing then!

However, we know that Abraham had laughed before (in Genesis 17), but God assured him that the child of promise was going to be from the relationship between he and Sarah.

Think about it, common sense tells us that a 100-year-old man and a 90-year-old woman **are not** going to be able to have children.

But after God said it would indeed happen, Abraham didn’t say anything against it at all. In other words, he didn’t waver.

A person who staggers or wavers in faith will not receive anything from God. (**James 1:6-7**)

Now look at the second half of Romans 4:20 because this was also an important step that enabled Abraham to receive from God.

- III. ABRAHAM SHOWED US HOW FAITH EXPRESSES ITSELF IN GIVING GLORY TO GOD! (Vs. 20)**

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I want you to notice that Abraham gave glory to God for the blessing and I believe that he did so before Isaac was ever conceived.

His name was changed from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude).

Today you may be facing obstacles or situations that have you boxed in, so to speak. But don't consider them – only consider what God says!

Now it's very difficult to consider what God says, if you don't know His Word. Too many people are trying to receive from God, but they don't know His Word for themselves. Someone told them what God said or they heard a testimony of how God's Word delivered somebody else. But that's not good enough.

If you know what God's promise is to you, you can begin to praise Him for it!

If you're going to consider the promises of God, you're going to have to know His Word for yourself. It's one thing to say "*I think so*" or "*I heard,*" but it's another thing to say, "*I know!*" When you say "*I know,*" that means you're persuaded beyond a shadow of a doubt.

**Now look at verse 20-21 again.**

Abraham was strong in faith, so he didn't consider the circumstances or stagger at the promise of God through unbelief. He wavered not concerning what he believed. Why? Because he was fully persuaded!

You see, our position is to *consider not, stagger not, give glory to God, and to be fully persuaded*—that's our responsibility. It's God's responsibility to do what He says He will do!

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We don't have to try to figure out how He's going to do it or try to intervene to help Him in our flesh, because if God said it, He will do it!

Unfortunately, many people today are in a position of staggering or wavering. They're wondering if the promises of God are really for them. Well, they're not going to receive anything from God that way!

Remember when the Apostle Paul was on a ship bound for Rome? The wind and the waves tossed the boat back and forth so violently that the men on board the ship gave up all hope of being saved.

**Look at Acts 27:22-25.**

Paul was full persuaded that God would do just what He said!

It's not feasible that a ship would go down during a violent storm without someone dying, is it? But that's exactly what happened (vv. 41-44). I tell you, if God says He will do something for you, He will do it, just stay steady and don't waver!

You may feel as if you're in the middle of a violent storm and your ship is about to go under! But if you will keep believing God, He will deliver you! He may have to give you a new ship, but He will deliver you!

Some people think, "*Well, if God was really in the situation, there wouldn't be any problems or tests. There wouldn't be any trouble.*" No, the Bible never says that!

Paul, who wrote about Abraham in the Book of Romans, was beaten repeatedly and faced death many times. Yet he said: *1 Corinthians 15:58—“Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

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*2 Corinthians 2:14—“Now thanks be unto God , which always causeth us to triumph in Christ. . .”*

According to the way some people teach faith, Paul wasn't very successful because he had all sorts of trials and tribulations.

Yet we can take a lesson from the Apostle Paul. Yes, he went through those trials—but he considered not the situations, staggered not at the promises of God, and was fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform.

Often people say, *“Well, I don't understand why I'm having to go through this.”*

My answer to them is this, *“I don't know either. But keep believing God, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!!”*

I want to tell you how persuaded Abraham was. He was so fully persuaded that even after Isaac was born and God told him to offer Isaac, he obeyed God!

Abraham was so sure that God would keep His Word that he took his son Isaac up on top of the mountain to offer him as God said (Genesis 22). By his faith, Abraham gave glory to God!

(Look at **Hebrews 11:11-12; 17-19**)

Listen, instead of questioning God, why not just glorify the Lord through all the troubles and trials!

When you really believe something, you act like it is a sure thing don't you!

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For example, if a faithful father told his fifteen-year-old child? I'm going to buy you a car next month when you turn sixteen and pass the driver's test. Now if that child really believes his father. I guarantee they are going to act as if what their father said was true.

They'd study to pass that driver's test! They'd tell everyone, *“I'm getting a car next month!!”* Even though they haven't seen the car and he haven't seen any keys.

What evidence is that teenage child going on? He's going on what his daddy said! I want you to know that child isn't considering anything else. If somebody asked that child, *“Yes, but what if such-and-such happens?”* He'd answer, *“I'm not worried about it. My dad said he would buy me a car, and he's going to do it!”*

Well, as Christians, we don't have to worry about anything either. We don't have to consider anything other than what our Heavenly Father has said! Because He's a Faithful Heavenly Father who can and will do what He says!

Do you want to know why some Christians don't talk about God's promises to them? Because they're not really persuaded that He's going to fulfill them.

Look at the word *“able”* in verse 21. It means *“powerful, mighty, having power for something.”* Abraham believed that God had the strength to do what He promised. He was strong enough to do what He promised. He was capable enough to do what He promised.

I'm sorry to say there are too many people who don't really believe the promises in the Bible? **But if God said it, that settles it and we should believe it!**

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We have to be like Abraham! Fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is also able to perform. We have to believe that whatever God has said, He is able to bring to pass!

What is it that you need from God today? While you're waiting for the promise of God to be fulfilled in your life, maintain your confident trust in Him! Refuse to consider the circumstances or anything else.

Don't stagger at the promises of God through unbelief but, instead, thank God in advance for causing you to triumph. Then stay fully persuaded that whatever God promised, He is able to do. And it will come to pass!

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*ABRAHAM SHOWED US HOW TO BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS IN  
SPITE OF THE SEEMING IMPOSSIBILITY!*

*He hoped when everything seemed hopeless!*

*He believed that God could do that which defied even nature!*

*He had a faith that grew stronger as it was exercised!*

*ABRAHAM SHOWED US HOW EXPRESSES ITSELF IN GIVING  
GLORY TO GOD!*

**IV. ABRAHAM SHOWED US HOW OUR FAITH IS CREDITED  
TO US AS RIGHTEOUSNESS! (Vs. 22)**  
**(Romans 10:8-10)**

**Conclusion**

Paul calls him "Abraham, who is the father of us all" (*vs16*)

That which was written about Abraham was written on our behalf so we could learn the lessons of faith!