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FAITH OF ABRAHAM

Romans 4:16-22

Salvation is like a house. It is a big, beautiful house full of rooms to explore, rooms to open and experience. As I go about that house, I find myself fumbling with a big set of keys trying to open each room, because the rooms are locked. These rooms can be tithing, witnessing, service, self-effort, teaching, but it is GRACE which opens these doors. Eph 2.8-9 tells us that grace has saved us through FAITH. Finally the master of the house comes and says, "The key which opened the front door is a master key. The faith which opened the front door, will also open all the other doors in the house."

The Christian Life is lived through grace by faith. And we are to work out this salvation for it is God who is at work in you. Phil 2.12-13

Salvation is a point in time but also a process toward conclusion.

THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

1. Faith is CENTERED in a PERSON v17

He simply believed God. And what a relationship the two had. It was a personal relationship built on trust. Abraham trusted a person – GOD.

FAITH is a popular subject.

"You gotta have faith in your faith."

Mt 17.20 "...because of the littleness of your faith...If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could move mountains..."

Faith is only as VALID as its OBJECT

You can have STRONG faith in a WEAK object and you'll fall.

You can have Weak faith in a STRONG object and you'll stand.

Col. 2.5 speaks of their good discipline and stability of your faith in Christ. Peter on the water had faith in Christ. He didn't say "I think I can, I think I can" he said, "I think YOU can"

How do I increase my faith?

Ro 10.10 For the Wise Person believes

.11 Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed

So, STUDY the OBJECT and KNOW the OBJECT of YOUR FAITH!

2. Faith CONTRADICTS the Problem v19

The saying, "That which doesn't kill me makes me stronger."

That is true, as long as your faith and attitude accept it.

Circumstances have nothing to do with faith.

(one day I'm high on Jesus and the next I'm depressed)

Ph 4.11 Paul. "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am"

If circumstances are required, faith is absent.

Faith always disregards circumstances.

Noah- it had never rained before – a mist watered the earth – Gen 6

Gideon – Judges 6 "O valiant warrior" Who, me? I'm the least of all.

From 32,000 down to 300 God defeated the Midianites.

David – with a ruddy appearance he was anointed, not the other 7. – I Sam 16

Daniel – Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego in the fiery furnace. Dan 3

Daniel in the lion's den "because he trusted in his God". Dan 6.23

Now let me ask you, what about your circumstances?

Your faith has nothing to do with outward circumstances.

Col 1.28 – "...we want to present them to God perfect in their relationship to Christ. "NLB

3. Faith CLAIMS the PROMISE v 21-22

Abraham was fully convinced God would deliver what he promised.

Gen 18 - the Three men say Sarah will have a child and she laughs.

I would think having the mother along as part of the team would be a definite pre-requisite for this miracle – SHE WASN'T.

There is an old saying "God said it, I believe it, that settles it."

WRONG!! If God is going to do something, it is going to happen.

Faith believes God CAN do what He said He would do,

WILL do what He said He would do,

HAS DONE what He said He would do.

Jesus said in Mark 11.24 – "All things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted to you."

But if God has said it, it will happen