

By Faith

1-31-21

Romans 4:21 (ESV)

Fully convinced that God was able to do what God had promised.

In Chapter 3 we saw what God has done for us. God's act of Salvation becomes effective for us by faith. Now in Chapter 4, we are told what "faith" looks like. **When God says, "By Faith" HE means we are fully convinced that God is able to do what HE has promised. Therefore, we need to know what God has promised in order to have faith. We need to know the Clear promises in the Bible. We are also warned:**

James 4:3 (ESV)

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

However, understanding God's promises we have Faith Being fully convinced that God is able to do what HE says. Knowing God is able, we also know nothing is impossible with God and HE will call into existence things that presently don't exist.

Romans 4:17b (ESV)

God gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is normal thinking for people of faith. Remember what the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary:

Luke 1:37 (ESV)

For nothing will be impossible with God.

Literally this means, “No specific word from God to you is impossible!” Therefore, we are to search the Scriptures for God’s promises and HIS specific Words to us. Whatever God says or shows us, HE will bring it into existence just like when HE created the world. “God said and it came into being.” **Faith is manifest in the impossible and will stand against the impossible!**

In Chapter 4, Abraham is presented as the pure example concerning faith for all believers. God says:

Romans 4:3 (ESV)

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

This is quoted from Genesis 15:6, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” God said this about Abraham’s Faith before God established the covenant of circumcision and before God gave Moses the Law. This is a huge point stated by Paul over and over in the Scriptures. Faith is apart from the Law.

Abraham is an example of Faith apart from the Law and circumcision. Christian faith is built on this fact.

Romans 4:13 (ESV)

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law (or circumcision) but through the righteousness of faith.

Notice, the promise of God was not only made to Abraham but also made to his “offspring” literally his “seed”! As Abraham’s offspring, the promise does not come to us through the Law, but through faith. The Law brings a curse!

Romans 4:15 (ESV)

For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

The promise to Abraham, and the promise to his offspring depends not on the Law but faith. Therefore, the Law has been removed. **We like Abraham we are to live by faith.**

Romans 4:16 (ESV)

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

Summary: The promise to us depends on faith. Therefore, the promise rests on Grace (favor and power of God) and this promise is guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring. Therefore, Abraham is the father of us all, all believers. Exactly who are Abraham’s offspring, these believers?

Romans 2:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.

Abraham's offspring are those born of the Spirit, meaning all believers in Jesus Christ. This is the reason Abraham is the father of us all.

Faith was necessary for Abraham's impossible situation. Abraham believed God, fully convinced that God could do what HE said, and he knew God could call into existence the things that didn't exist. To show God's power which was made effective by faith, God shows us Abraham's impossible situation when God promise him a son.

Romans 4:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb (Sarah was 90 years old). ²⁰ **No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God**, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

Is your impossible situation worse than Abraham's? God is telling us clearly to set our eyes on Jesus and to be fully convinced that God will do what HE said and know God will call into existence the things that don't presently exist. **God's power is made effective by our faith. The impossible situation in our life is to show God's power through our unwavering faith. This is Abraham's faith which is an example to us.**

Romans 4:22 (ESV)

That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

We say, “That was for Abraham and special people in the Bible.” However, Paul says, “No!” This is normal faith for normal Christians!

Romans 4:23–24 (ESV)

²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ **but for ours also.** It will be “counted to us” who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord!

The record of Abraham’s believing faith was not written for only Abraham. **These words were written for us today! This is Normal faith for normal Christians. People who say, “We are fully convinced that God is able to do what HE has promised, and HE calls into existence the things that do not presently exist.”**

Brothers and sisters, Romans Chapter 4 was written to show us that we live in a power position with God made effective through our faith.

By Faith, fully convinced, we believe:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.