

Faith to Grace Missions

Rom. 4:16-25, Heb. 11:8
“The Father of the Faithful”



Rom. 4:16 Therefore ***it is of faith, that it might be by grace;*** to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of **the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,**

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And **being not weak in faith**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:



20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Heb. 11:8 **By faith Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place **which he should after receive** for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.



Abraham, called “*the friend of God,*” is also known as the “father of us all.”

2 Chron. 20:7 *Art* not thou our God, *who* didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of **Abraham thy friend** for ever?

Isa. 41:8 But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of **Abraham my friend**.

Jas. 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and **he was called the Friend of God**.



As we prepare for our missions' conference next month, it is only proper that we begin with the example of "the father of the faithful." His life is an excellent example of how a believer today can be involved in world evangelism. Note the unique phrase in Rom. 4:16:

Rom. 4:16 Therefore ***it is of faith, that it might be by grace;***

- ❖ A believer should be concerned about world evangelism as a matter of grace. Until it is an act of grace, do it simply as an act of obedient faith.
- ❖ Every believer in the USA is a by-product of world evangelism of those involved in missions in the past – we are standing upon their shoulders and should follow their footsteps.



Heb. 11:8 **By faith Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place **which he should after receive** for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

I. THE DIRECTIONS FOR THE OBJECTIVE OF FAITH

A. The Calling – “...when he was called...”

❖ Each believer is saved by grace through faith and is directed to “walk by faith.”

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)



❖ Each believer has a gift and calling from the Lord for His honor and glory.

Rom. 11:29 For **the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**

1 Cor. 1:26 For **ye see your calling, brethren**, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:

1 Cor. 7:20 Let every man **abide in the same calling wherein he was called.**

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that ye may know what is the hope of his calling**, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,



Phil. 3:14 I press toward the mark **for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

2 Thess. 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our **God would count you worthy of *this* calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and **the work of faith** with power:

2 Tim. 1:9 Who hath saved us, and **called us with an holy calling**, not according to our works, **but according to his own purpose and grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Heb. 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, **partakers of the heavenly calling**, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;



2 Pet. 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

❖ God's individual calling, "the work of faith," that is "according to his own purpose and grace," requires that believers "make your calling and election sure" throughout life.

B. The Commission – "...to go out into a place..."
Mt. 28:18-20

❖ There is a general commission for our church, and specific involvement for each person.



Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**



Luke 24:47 And that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem.

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

- ❖ The objective of faith for believers is accompanied by opposition to that faith.



II. THE DEFIANCE TO THE OPPOSITION TO FAITH, “...and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

A. The Unknown Challenge, “...not knowing whither he went.”

- ❖ Abraham was not expected to know all the answers before “he went out.”
- ❖ The “unknown” may be a great hindrance to a person’s walking by faith.
- ❖ Despite unknown factors, believer follow the Lord’s leadership.



❖ Most Americans do not realize the need nor God's supply for world evangelism.

✦ **Only 1.5% is "tithed" to any Christian causes: \$896 billion.**

❖ "Americans have recently spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets than the amount given to reach the unreached."

Claude Hickman



WHERE DOES THE MISSIONS MONEY GO? NOT TOO FAR.

- ✦ **Only 6% of this “tithe” goes to anything Missions: \$52 billion (5.8%, 2022).**
- ✦ **Only 1.7% of “Missions Giving” goes to work among Unreached Peoples.**
- ✦ *For every \$100,000 that Christians make, they give \$1.70 to the unreached.*
- ✦ Believers usually do not know from where the resources will be generated to give to missions except by trusting THE PROVIDER, by faith.



HYPOTHETICAL OBSERVATIONS

- ❖ Evangelical Christians could provide all of the funds needed to plant a church in each of the 7,400 unreached people groups with only 0.03% of their income.
- ❖ Christians have roughly 3,000 times the financial resources and 9,000 times the manpower needed to finish the Great Commission. If every evangelical gave 10% of their income to missions we could easily support 2 million new missionaries.

<https://www.thetravelingteam.org/stats>



- ❖ If there were no births nor deaths, and 1,000,000 Americans were saved each year, it would take over 334 years to win the USA to the Lord.
- ❖ If there were no births nor deaths, and 1,000,000 souls around the world were saved each year, it would take about 7,955 years to win the world to the Lord.

B. The Unwise Consideration – *reasonable objections*

Gen. 12:4 So **Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him**; and Lot went with him: and **Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed** out of Haran.



- ❖ Our adversary is a liar and will provide many *reasonable objections* to be involved in Faith Promise, like being too old, being too poor, etc.
 - ✦ The need here is too great.
 - ✦ I will leave world evangelism to richer people.
 - ✦ I cannot afford to tithe and give to missions.



2 Cor. 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that **in a great trial of affliction** the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty **abounded unto the riches of their liberality.**

3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, **and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves;**

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but **first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.**



III. THE DUTY OF OBEDIENCE BY FAITH, “By faith Abraham...obeyed...”

A. The Attribute for Fruitfulness – FAITH

Rom. 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And **being not weak in faith**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

21 **And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**



- ❖ Salvation is an individual relationship between the believer and the Savior, requiring repentance.
- ❖ Service is an individual relationship between the believer and the Savior, requiring faithfulness.

B. The Action by Faith = OBEDIENCE – “By faith Abraham...obeyed...”

Phil. 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me **as concerning giving and receiving**, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but **I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**



❖ Faith and obedience are connected by love:

Jn. 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Gal. 5:6b “...**faith which worketh by love.**”

❖ Love is the fuel that motivates faith to commit to action, for God’s glory.



Summary

- ❖ Abraham was 75 years old when he started his walk of faith with God, becoming “the Friend of God.”
- ❖ There were obstacles to overcome, and Abraham did so, being faithful, walking by faith.
- ❖ Abraham’s focus of faith was to trust God and follow His leadership.
- ❖ Believers today are to love the Lord, obey His commands, and walk by faith.



Conclusion

Jn. 8:42 Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me:** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. ...

56 Your father **Abraham rejoiced to see my day:** and **he saw it, and was glad.**

- ❖ Missions' Conference is a wonderful time to evaluate a personal love for the Savior and one's personal commitment to "world evangelism" Start praying to know the Lord's will for personal involvement in missions this year.

