



FR
G *of* FRIEND

What Does It Mean To Have Faith?

- **We are awed & overwhelmed by this truth:**
 - Identify with Peter or Barnabas more than one we picture as having unwavering faith (Matthew 26:72; Mark 9:24; Galatians 2:13)
- **We are painfully aware of the shortcomings in our own spiritual maturity!**

What Does It Mean To Have Faith?

- **What it is to “Waver”?**
 - διακρίνω (*diakrinō*) – To stagger (KJV); waver (NASB); hesitate (Strong); doubt (Thayer).
 - But the question is, “Had this always been the case in the life of Abraham?”
 - Can we be like Abraham in faith?

Paul's Use of "*Faith*"

- It is a faith that transcends mere mental assent.
- In fact, faith indicates loyalty, surrender, fidelity and allegiance to Jesus as King (Rom. 1:5; 6:16; 16:26; 6:3, 4; Gal. 2:20).
- Paul's contrast between "faith" and "works" is not a contrast between mental assent and obedience, but between two different systems of justification (Rom. 3:27).

Abraham Grew Into Great Faith

Romans 4:19-26

Faith is a journey, not a snapshot!



THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

Romans 4:12 (NKJV)

and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

Genesis 15:6

Genesis 12:1-3
Heb. 11:8; Acts 7:2

Genesis 15:6; 21
Romans 4:1-4,12

Genesis 15:6
James 2:21-23

“Abraham Did Struggle At Times

- **Abraham Struggled With His Faith:**
 - He sinned seriously (Gn. 12:13-19; 20:2-12).
 - He was impatient (Gn. 15:1-6).
 - He was willing to compromise (Gn. 16:2; 17:18).
- **Abraham Reached a Turning Point:**
 - Romans 4:20-21 parallels Genesis 21.
 - The visitation of the Lord to Sarah (cf. 18:10).
 - Abraham ceased to waver (cf. James 1:6).

Why did Abraham Struggle So?

- He was afraid (Gen. 12:12; 20:11).
- He was anxious (Gen. 15:2-3).
- He wanted to please men (Gen. 16:2).
- He was led by emotion (Gen. 17:18; cf. 21:11).
- He was plagued by the consequences of his past mistakes (Gen. 16:5; cf. 21:9-13).
- He was surrounded by doubters (Gen. 18:12-14).

Abraham's Faith Grew Stronger

- **Abraham Overcame and Was “Strong”**
 - In order to be strong, we must be tested.
 - God tested Abraham (Gn. 22:1-18).
 - Mt. Moriah
 - The fire, the wood and a knife.
 - “Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”
 - “God will provide Himself a lamb” (vv. 5 & 8).
 - Abraham's faith is settled (Heb. 11:17-19).
- **Finally, God says “Now, I know...” (v. 12).**

Paul Describes Abraham's Faith

- **“Against hope believed in hope...”** (Romans 4:18)
 - Against all probability he expected
 - Genesis 17:17.
- **“He considered not...”** (Romans 4:19).
 - Faith looks to God's strength, not difficulties.
 - Genesis 18:14.
- **“Giving glory to God...”** (Romans 4:20)
 - Ascribe what is due Him and obey in all things
 - Genesis 21:33

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- **“It was not written for his sake alone”:**
 - Genesis 15:6 is applied as a generalization (See James 2:21-24 which cites both Genesis 15 and 22, while Hebrews 11:8 references Genesis 12).
 - Abraham’s biography is preserved in order to give us encouragement.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

Genesis 15

(Rom. 4:3)

*Believed
the Lord
Reckoned it to him
as righteousness*

Genesis 21

(Rom. 4:16-21)

*99 Years Old
“Therefore it was
also credited to him
as righteousness*

Genesis 22

(James 2:21-23)

*Working Faith
Isaac Offered
Genesis 15:6
Fulfilled*

Same Faith

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“It shall be imputed if we believe...”

(Romans 4:24).

- Our goal is to get to where we do not stagger.
- “One step at a time...till faith grows stronger in Thee...till hope grows stronger in me.”