

## “Grace & Peace to You”

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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### ROMANS, Lesson 27 Part 1: “FULLY CONVINCED”

**ROM 4:16** *No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,* <sup>21</sup> *fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*

In **ROM 4:17-25**, Paul moves from the central subject to the “*process*” by which Abraham moved from **the Promise (Grace)** to **the Fulfilment (Isaac): FAITH**. In doing so, Paul gives us a **Foundational Lesson** in the principals of “**Faith**” which can be applied to every area of the Believer’s life.

Abraham and Sarah “*believed God*” in spite of the “*delays, disappointments, and distractions*” as they waited for over 25 years to receive the answer they had been promised.

THIS section of Scripture becomes a “**model**” for **Faith in God's Grace**, no matter what the circumstance we face. **The Key:** “*Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do ... what He had promised!*”

READ: **ROM 4:17-25**

#### **ROMANS 4:16–17**

<sup>16)</sup> **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**

- **THUS, justification is by faith (alone!) – that its purely gracious character may be seen,**
- *...and that all who follow in the steps of Abraham's faith--whether of his natural seed or not—*
- **may be assured of the SAME justification (through faith alone!) with Abraham [“parent-believer”]**

<sup>17)</sup> *as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” [GEN 17:5] –*

**[THIS Abraham did...]** *in the presence of the God in whom he believed, [the ONE] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.*

- *Gives life... the dead... - to make alive from that which is dead – NOT creating a substitute or replacement.*
  - **God would have to “make alive” the deadness of their procreative abilities – THIS was to be the reality of Abraham’s “believing THE PROMISE” – it would HAVE to be!**
- *Calls into existence... things that DO NOT exist... - “Called what was NOT being... To BE!”*
  - **The “Seed” (Isaac... The Messiah... Believers) would HAVE to become REAL... this was NOT to be a “figurative” SEED / Fulfilment!**

## ROMANS 4:18–22 “IT’S OKAY TO LOOK AT THE FACTS...JUST DON’T JUDGE THE PROMISE”

18) **In hope ... he believed against hope**, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”

- **Against [beyond] – gar – reaching past** – He didn’t let the **“deadness”** of his **“Natural Hope”** establish the limit of what could be...
- **Hope...Hope – Natural vs Supernatural** – his inability to **“make it happen”** vs **GOD’S PROMISE to fulfill what He said!**

### ROMANS, Lesson 27 Part 2: “FULLY CONVINCED”

- **Believed ON...** – literally: **placed his faith UPON the Hope created by GOD’S Promise**
  - Unlike most of the other statements about Abraham’s **“believing...”** THIS one uses the preposition **“epi – upon”** – His **“believing”** **RESTED** upon the **“Hope IN The Promise...”**
  - **HE DID NOT** have to **“uphold”** THE PROMISE... **IT** Held Him!
  - **WE “rest upon THE PROMISE”** – even as Peter **“walked upon”** the Word of Jesus, **“Come!”**
- **SO THAT...he might become** – : **“eis...to”** – purpose clause – **“to the end that he might be able to enter into”** – w/o the above **“faith – absolute trust”** he would not attain the promised result – **“Father of many...”**
- **The “Father” of many nations** - **[in agreement with the words]** Only through the provision of the **“PROMISED SEED”** would he be able to see the fulfilment ... **“Equally numerous shall your posterity be.”** (GEN 15:5)

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.**

- **Not growing weak in faith...** – **“weakening”** – what he **“considered”** **COULD NOT** change his faith in the Promise... NOT faith in himself...
- WHEN he **Considered his body (as if it were slain) ...deadness of...** –
  - He **DID** consider! – **katanoieo** (AorAct) **“contemplate – fix his gaze on so as to evaluate”** – but it did not change what he believed – **In Fact**, it strengthened his faith: **“We can’t – only GOD can!”**
  - He **DID NOT** weaken... -
- **Both verbs act as one unit: NOT weakening ... he considered** – This becomes the key to the issue: **You judge your ability as dead (Works) and God’s ability as alive (Grace). That’s Faith!**

20) **No unbelief ... made him waver** concerning THE PROMISE of God, **BUT** he **grew strong** [became mighty] **in his faith** as he gave glory to God...

➤ **No unbelief...** - “apistia” - not of faith / a “limited” faith - “I can believe **THIS**... BUT... I cannot believe **THAT**... - Singling-out something that **CANNOT be believed** -

➤ **made him waver...** - doubt / judge / waver / stagger...

○ He **did NOT decide** - make judgment - “diakring” (AorPass) - to **doubt / stagger / waver / make mental judgment after evaluation**...

○ He **DID** “waver” in regard to **his ability to reach the goal** - multiple times... -

○ **BUT: NOT** in his **faith in the ability of God** to **FULFILL the Promise** (vs 21)

➤ **Against THE PROMISE** - “eis” - in regard to / concerning... -

○ His questions / reasoning / wavering was in regard to the **NATURAL** circumstances...

○ **WHEN** he would question, God re-assured with a re-statement of **THE PROMISE**

○ Even giving him “natural” confirmations: The Sand... the Stars... Even “Circumcision”

➤ **By unbelief** - apistia - **to not trust / to set a limit** of what is believable - he did **NOT** say:

*“Because it has never happened before...I don’t see it happening here...it is beyond my ability to believe it...therefore it can’t be done...so I don’t believe!”*

➤ **INSTEAD: He became empowered by the fact of believing** - **endunamoo** (AorPass) - It was the “faith” that brought the “strength” to accomplish the promise - the act of believing (**FAITH**) brought the “**divine Ability-GRACE**” necessary to fulfill the promise -

➤ The **faith** was not the “**power**” - it was the “**ACCESS**” that brought the “**power**” of **God’s grace**...

➤ **AS He gave glory to God...** - **AorPass** - THIS action takes place BEFORE “**Believing**” and “**Becoming Empowered**” -

1) He **GAVE GLORY** unto God **BY CHOICE**...

2) He **Believed** the Promise...

3) He **Became Strong** to “accomplish what God had Promised...”

21) [being] **fully convinced** that God **was able to do ... what he had promised**.

• **Being fully persuaded** - “Plerophoreo” - **AorPassPart** - **this occurred before the act of faith- before the decision** - He had **full assurance / absolute certainty** -

• **IF God Promised** - **PerfMidInd** - **He** would accomplish!

**HEB 11:11** *By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.*

**HEB 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

**1 THESS 5:24** *He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

<sup>22)</sup> *For this reason, also HIS FAITH “was placed to his credit as righteousness.” (GEN 15:6)*

### **ROMANS 4:23–25**

<sup>23)</sup> *But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*