

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 28 Part 1: “NOT FOR HIS SAKE ALONE”

ROM 4:20-25 *No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,* ²¹ *fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*

²² **THAT IS WHY** *his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”* 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, ²⁵ *who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

As we conclude **Chapter 4**, Paul makes the transition from the example of “*Grace and Faith*” in the life of Abraham to direct application to the life of the Believer in Jesus Christ. The greatest purpose of “*faith*” is in receiving the righteousness that God has made available through believing **THE GOSPEL**, the message of *the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. THIS faith brings the full work of God’s saving grace to the Believer, as Paul will reveal as we enter **Romans 5-8**.

- Chapters 1-3 “Righteousness w/God... Through FAITH... The GOSPEL!
- Chapter 4 “God’s Promise” – Illustrated in Life of Abraham: A Child... / Righteousness...
 - Finding “The Promise” from God
 - Let God “quicken the Promise to you...”
 - God’s Promise is the provision of His Grace – God’s power for OUR weakness...

Review of ROM 4:20-21

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 - It is GOD’S Power that will fulfill... NOT your ability

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

- He did NOT decide – make judgment – “**diakrino**” (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: He DID NOT “waver / judge against” the ability of God to FULFILL the Promise (vs 21)

⊃ Against THE PROMISE – “eis” – in regard to / concerning... -

- His questions / reasonings / waverings were in regard to the NATURAL circumstances...
GEN 16:1-2; GEN 17:15-17; GEN 18:11-14

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

- Even giving him “natural” confirmations:

- The Sand... - GEN 13:15 “...for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.”¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the [sand / dust] of the earth, so that if one can count the [sand] of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

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- The Stars... - GEN 15:2 But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”⁵ And [THE LORD GOD] brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- Even “Circumcision” ... - It was a “Sign” and a “Seal” that the God of Abraham and his Seed were in Covenant with the MOST HIGH GOD, and that HE would DO as HE had Promised...

We Have these promises: DON'T Discount His Promise

Ashland Chemical... - Masters / PhD

Every response was Negative... God's word to me: “Don't you think...”

ROMANS LESSON 28 Part 2: “NOT FOR HIS SAKE ALONE”

⊃ 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!”

LOOK at the Sand... LOOK at the Stars...

⊃ INSTEAD: He became empowered by the fact of believing – endunamoo (AorPass) to receive divine ability within – 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 –

⊃ Abraham's FAITH was NOT the “POWER” – it was the “ACCESS / the Catalyst / the fuse” that brought the “power” [dunamis] 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...” [produce AN heir... to produce MULTITUDES of heirs... EVEN Nations... So that “in the fulness of time” ABRAHAM & SARAH might bring forth THE SEED [THE MESSIAH ... JESUS CHRIST]... Millions would Come...

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

I CAN'T But HE CAN... “My grace is sufficient... for My POWER...

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

- Do **WE** know that IF God Promised... **HE is ABLE?** –
- We see this time and again in Abraham’s life:

- **He went-out... NOT Knowing...** [HEB 11:8-9]

Columbus to OK... Adobe Bldgs... OBU... Sheridan... 1st yr Rhema Reg Day... **ADOBE BLDGS!**

- **He Separated from Lot, giving him the “best Land...”** [GEN 13:8-13]

- **He Trusted God to provide when He tithed what he had gained I spoil...** [GEN 14:17-24]

- **He KNEW that IF Isaac was to “die” on Moriah, God would “raise him up...”** [HEB 11:17-19]

- **IF [since]** God Promised **[and He DID]** - **PerfMidInd** – God’s Promise was **OF** and **FOR** HIS Purpose – and once made the effects of the Promise continued – The elapsed time **DID NOT** matter ... **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.*

THAT IS WHY...

ROM 4:22-25 *That is why his **faith** was “counted to him as righteousness.”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,²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

➤ *That is why... - HERE is Paul’s “explanation” of WHY God accepted Abraham’s faith...*

- His **faith** “gave glory” to GOD –
- His **faith** showed he believed what **GOD HAD PROMISED** –
- His **faith** showed he believed **that God WAS ABLE** to do what He promised -

➤ *Counted as righteousness... -*

- His **faith** was “written to the ledger as...” –

Came to OK... Kept moving to smaller place...

“IF you do not believe... you will NOT SEE the glory of God!”

Worked to clean back room of a bar while attending college...

Met the Spragues... “... I’ll take care of you...”

NOT just stories... myths... THESE are REAL PEOPLE!

- **Justification**: “*Right standing*” with God... - It placed him in a position of “**equity**” (NOT equality) ... - there was NO distance... NO barrier... NO Separation... -

➤ **NOT written for his sake alone...** -

- Although this was a valuable and wonderful thing that GOD did for Abraham & Sarah... It WASN'T just about them... -

THESE are lessons in “faith”

God made the Promise of Righteousness through Jesus Christ... THAT'S the beginning...

But faith ALSO grants access to ALL of God's provision and Blessing

AND...

ROM 8:32 “*If God did not spare His own Son, how shall He not, along with Him, FREELY give us ALL things!*”

- There was a LESSON in what GOD was doing... -

1 COR 10:1 -

➤ **For OURS also...** -

- Although Abraham did not KNOW... He was “living a lesson” for the Believers who were to come...
- God often uses the experiences of OUR lives as testimony or Lesson to those who follow...

2 COR 1:3-8 -

1 TIM 4:12-16 -

➤ **Who BELIEVE... - FAITH is necessary... ESSENTIAL to the obtaining of the “Promise...”**

ROM 1:17 -

- **Who was Delivered -up...** - “**paradidomi**” – *given over / betrayed / surrendered...*

- **For...** - “**Because of...**” – shows what follows was the reason for what preceded... **SUBSTITUTION**
- **Trespasses...** - “**paraptoma**” – *to be out-of-bounds / beside the path...* - WE were forever going astray, neglecting the way... Jesus was ALWAYS following GOD'S path...

- **[Who was] Raised...** - “**egeiro**” – *to raise-up / arouse / awaken*

- **For...** - “**Because of...**” – shows what follows was the reason for what preceded...
- **Justification...** - “**dikaiosis**” – JESUS' Resurrection FOLLOWED God's declaration of our Justification.