

**I. Introduction and review.**

- A. What is faith? Heb. 11:1
- B. Is faith reasonable?

**II. What kind of faith justifies? 4:17b-22 The Nature of Abraham's faith.**

- A. The object of saving faith is the promise of God. v. 17-18
  - 1. Faith is only as good as its object.
    - a. Sincerity is not enough.
    - b. Saving faith is not merely a subjective feeling or a blind leap.
  - 2. Abraham believed God's promises. v. 17a, 18b Gen. 12:2-3 15:1-5 17:1-8
  - 3. Abraham's hope was ultimately in Christ, the true Seed and the fulfillment of the promise. John 8:56 Gal. 3:16
- B. Saving faith trusts God's promise in spite of all appearances to the contrary. v. 18-20
  - 1. Abraham faced the hard reality of his circumstances. v. 19 He. 11:12
  - 2. Abraham persevered in faith without wavering. v. 18a, 19a, 20
  - 3. Abraham's faith rested upon the bare Word of God.
  - 4. Faith does not refuse to face the facts.
  - 5. True faith has assurance because it looks beyond earthly circumstances to God. He. 11:1 II Co. 5:7
  - 6. Our goal is full assurance of faith.  
There is no nobility to doubt.
- C. Saving faith is grounded in the Character of God. v. 17b, 21
  - 1. The character of the one making the promise determines whether the promise can be relied upon.
  - 2. Abraham's belief in Almighty God overcame the improbability of the promise.
  - 3. God is all powerful. He is able to keep His promise v. 17b, 21 Jer. 32:17
    - a. He gives life to the dead. 8:11 Heb. 11:19 Deut. 32:39 I Sa. 2:6
    - b. He calls non-existent things into being. Isa. 48:13
  - 4. God is trustworthy. He always keeps His promise. v. 21 Ti. 1:2 Nu. 23:19 Dt. 7:9
    - a. We often make promises which we do not fulfill.
    - b. Nothing can prevent God from keeping His promises.
    - c. Those who reject the infallibility of the Bible assault the character of God and undermine all true faith.
  - 5. Full assurance of faith comes when you trust God. Mt. 14:28-31
    - a. The strength of faith does not depend upon the difficulty of what is believed.
    - b. The strength of faith is in its object.
  - 6. God Himself strengthens your faith. v. 20b Heb. 11:34
  - 7. God uses means to strengthen faith.
- D. Saving faith has a glorious outcome. v. 20b,22
  - 1. By means of faith you are declared righteous before God. v. 22 Gen. 15:6
  - 2. Faith continues.
  - 3. Faith acts. Heb. 11:11
  - 4. Faith brings glory to God. v. 20b
  - 5. Faith is God centered.

### **III. The faith which saves you is like that of Abraham. v. 23-25**

- A. Abraham is the pattern for all believers. v. 23-24 15:4 I Co. 10:11**
  - 1. We trust the same promises of God.**
  - 2. We also believe in the face of great difficulties.**
  - 3. We also ground our faith in the unchanging character of Almighty God Who gives life to the dead. 8:11 I Co. 15:22,36,45 Eph. 1:19-20 2:1f**
  - 4. We share the outcome of Abraham's faith.**
  
- B. Believe in Christ, Who is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. v. 25**
  - 1. He died because of our transgressions that we might be pardoned. Isa. 53:5-6,12**
    - a. We are guilty. 3:23**
    - b. Jesus' died as our substitute, paying the penalty we owed. 3:24-25 II Co. 5:21**
    - c. God delivered Him up unto death. Acts 2:23 Re. 13:8 Is. 53:4,6**
  - 2. He was raised from the dead because of our justification. 5:10 Isa. 53:10-12**
    - a. The resurrection is essential to the gospel. I Co. 15:1f Acts 3:15 4:10**
    - b. What does the resurrection have to do with justification? 5:9 3:24-25**
    - c. Resurrection is the proclamation that God is fully and completely satisfied with Jesus' work on the cross.**
    - d. If He remained in the grave, we are not justified. I Co. 15:17**
    - e. As He was raised so we are raised from spiritual death. 6:4-5**

### **IV. Concluding applications.**

- A. Is faith reasonable?**
  - 1. Faith is not a blind leap, nor burying our heads in the sand, nor foolhardiness.**
  - 2. Faith is a reasoning trust in God's promises based upon God's character.**
- B. What must you do to be saved? Acts 16:30-31**
- C. Grow in your faith.**

### **Discussion questions for family worship**

- 1. Why are the following statements false?**
  - A. All that matters is that your faith is sincere.**
  - B. Faith is a blind leap, apart from reason or facts.**
  - C. If you just have enough faith you can cause anything to happen (money, miracles of healing, etc.)**
- 2. What was the object of Abraham's faith?**
- 3. How was Abraham able to have assurance of faith, in spite of difficult circumstances?**
- 4. Why should you believe the promises of God?**
- 5. What is the outcome of Abraham's faith?**
- 6. How is Abraham, who lived 2000 years before Christ, a pattern for those of us who live 2000 years after Christ?**
- 7. Why is the resurrection an essential part of the gospel?**
- 8. What must you do to be saved?**
- 9. How can you grow your faith?**