

ASTOUNDING FAITH

ROMANS 4:18-25

- The Bible is clear: Although man's faith and God's grace are both involved in salvation, *they are in no way equal components.*
- This passage concludes Paul's illustration of Abraham as the supreme Old Testament example of saving faith.
- God's grace is God's grace—the unmerited favor of our Divine maker—we can't earn it and have no part in it beyond receiving it!
- Even **MAN'S FAITH** is included **BY WAY OF A GIFT** as the provision of God's gracious salvation. **EPH. 2:8-9**

ABRAM'S FAITH WAS TRULY ASTOUNDING

Abram faced a number of severe tests of his faith.

- He encountered famine. **GEN. 12:10**
- A potentially hostile pharaoh **GEN. 12:14-20**
- A conflict with his nephew Lot **GEN. 13:5-9**
- A struggle with fear **GEN. 15:1**
- For the century that he lived in Canaan (**GEN. 25:7**), Abram owned none of it, except for a burial site.
- Forty years before it was fulfilled, Abram believed God's promise to give him an heir . . . at **99 YEARS OF AGE**.

THE WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO MAN

PROV. 14:12

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO HELP GOD OUT?

- When Hagar gave birth to Ishmael, Abram at last had an heir, but it was an heir of his own sinful contriving and human sexuality.

This is a very profound lesson to learn: **God's promises can only be fulfilled by God's power!**

- Human efforts to effect His will, no matter how sincere or clever those efforts might be, are doomed to failure, and bring God dishonor rather than glory.
- Being outside of God's will is always wrong.

THE ANALYSIS OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

ROM. 4:18-21

1. First, the apostle declares of Abraham that *“in hope against hope he believed.”*
2. Paul declares that Abraham believed God *“without becoming weak in faith.”*
3. Paul tells us that Abraham's faith prevented him from becoming discouraged by his own natural weakness.
4. Abraham did not doubt God's promise when the circumstances around him seemed to make its fulfillment impossible.

5. *“With respect to the promise of God,”* Abraham *“did not waver in unbelief.”*
6. Paul says that Abraham’s faith was characterized by his *“giving glory to God.”*
7. Abraham was fully persuaded that God’s promise was certain and His power sufficient, *“being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”*

GOD’S RESPONSE TO ABRAHAM’S FAITH v. 23-25

The heart of this whole chapter is that, in response to Abraham’s faith, God graciously ***reckoned it to him as righteousness.***

THE APPLICATION OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

ROM. 4:23-25

- The marvelous thing about Abraham's faith being reckoned as righteousness is that the same divine principle applies to every person who trusts in God's Son.
- The sacrificial work of Jesus was the provision for Abraham's sin by which God saved him.
- From the human side, the key phrase in **ROMANS 4:24** is "*who believe in Him.*" Faith is the necessary condition for salvation—**BELIEVING!**

ASTOUNDING FAITH, AMAZING GRACE