

ABRAHAM - A MODEL OF FAITH **(Genesis 15:1-6)**

I. His faith was founded on revelation.

- A. God revealed Himself to Abraham.
 - 1. The first time that we know He revealed Himself to Abraham was while Abram was living in Ur of the Chaldees (Acts 7:2-4).
 - 2. Then at Haran in Mesopotamia (Genesis 12:1-4).
 - 3. Then at Shechem in Canaan (Genesis 12:6-7).
 - 4. After Lot left Abraham for the plains of Sodom (Genesis 13:14-17).
 - 5. Also, numerous times after that (Genesis 15, 17, 18, 22).
- B. By revealing Himself to Abraham, God provided plenty of evidence for him to place his faith and trust in God.
- C. Our faith is to be based on revelation as well.
 - 1. God will not speak to us directly as He did Abraham.
 - 2. However, faith still comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17).
 - a. That word contains evidence that will lead us to have faith in God and His word (John 20:30-31).
 - b. The more we read, the more about God there is that is revealed to us, especially when we read about God in the flesh, Jesus the Christ
- D. If we are to use Abraham as a model of faith, we must be open and receptive to God's revelation of Himself to us.

II. Abraham's faith led to His obedience to God.

- A. Think about all the faithful acts that Abraham committed.
 - 1. He left his country (Hebrews 11:8).
 - 2. He traveled in a land unknown to him (Hebrews 11:9-10).
 - 3. He offered his son Isaac (Hebrews 11:17; James 2:21-24).
 - 4. Abraham did not have a dead faith but one that expressed itself through obedience to the commands of God.
- B. We must obey God by faith.
 - 1. The gospel calls for obedience to the faith (Romans 1:5).
 - 2. We must obey the doctrine of Christ from the heart (Romans 6:17).
 - 3. There is a woe placed upon them that don't obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ; 1 Peter 4:17).
- C. If we are going to use Abraham as a model of faith, we must, like him, have a faith that works through love (Galatians 5:6).

III. Abraham's faith was a trusting faith.

- A. It is important to understand that even though works are an essential element to faith, as James points out, it is the faith behind the works that is pleasing to God and not just the works.
 - 1. We see this in the life of King Saul.
 - 2. He did works but Samuel let him know that God wants more than just sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).
- B. The fact is Abraham trusted in God, not his own works.
 - 1. Notice again, Genesis 15:6.

- a. Abraham believed God.
 - b. It, his faith, was reckoned or considered for righteousness.
 - c. It was Abraham's faith that pleased God.
 - 2. Paul stressed this point in Romans 4:1-3.
 - a. Abraham was in no way justified simply by his works.
 - b. Abraham was justified because of his faith that was shown by his works.
 - 3. Even though he had a faith that worked, he did not trust in those works; he trusted in God who justifies the ungodly (Romans 4:5-8).
- C. We must trust in Jesus and not in our works.
 - 1. As was mentioned earlier, we must obey God which involves certain works.
 - a. Faith is a work (John 6:28-29 - Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent).
 - b. Even baptism is a work (Colossians 2:12-13).
 - 2. But when everything is taken into consideration, we must not put our trust in obedience.
 - a. This would make it seem like we are owed salvation because we earned it.
 - b. Jesus taught us to realize that we are unworthy (Luke 17:10).
 - 3. It is the faith or trust in Jesus that is leading to our obedience which pleases God, not some meritorious value of the works done in order to receive God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9 ; Titus 3:5).
- D. If Abraham is our model for faith, we must have an obedient faith that trusts in God who is the justifier of the ungodly.

IV. Abraham's faith was a growing faith.

- A. As Abraham walked more and more with God, his faith grew.
 - 1. There were times when Abraham's faith was weak.
 - a. Twice he lied about his wife being his sister.
 - b. He questioned God when he and Sarah didn't have children.
 - c. He showed weak faith when it came to Sarah's suggestion of taking Hagar to have a child with in her place.
 - 2. Thankfully, God was patient with Abraham and his faith grew.
 - a. He had finally came to believe that he and Sarah could conceive a child (Romans 4:18-22).
 - b. He had faith that God would raise his promised son from the dead if he offered him as God had commanded him to do (Hebrews 11:17-19).
 - 3. The faith of Abraham was not a faith that was allowed to stagnate, but an ever-growing faith that came about because he was a friend of God according to James 2:23.
- B. You and I must grow in faith.
 - 1. The apostles had to do this (Matthew 8:25-26; Acts 4:13).

2. The Thessalonians had to do this (2 Thessalonians 1:3).
 - a. They had a growing faith.
 - b. We must as well.
- C. If we will use Abraham as a model for our faith we will grow as well (Romans 4:11-12).

Sermon outline originally came from Mike Copeland.