

Abraham: Against All Hope

Romans 4:18-21

18. Against (beyond) all hope (normal, natural hope), Abraham in (on) hope (sure expectation) believed (faith in what God had said) and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

19. Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

20. Yet he did not waver (withdraw from, KJV-staggered not) through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

21. being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

1. Face the facts!

Romans 4:19 - Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Romans 4:17 - As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

The scripture did not say that God "calls things that are as though they were not...

It says that He "calls things that are not as though they were"!

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

KJV - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. Do not waver!

Romans 4:20a - Yet he did not waver (withdraw from, KJV-staggered not) through unbelief regarding the promise of God,

James 1:6-7 – But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

KJV - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

3. Be strengthened in your faith!

Romans 4:20b – but (Abraham) was strengthened in his faith

James 1:2-3 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.(cheerful or hopeful endurance)

4. Give Glory to God!

Romans 4:20c – and (Abraham) gave glory to God,

Philippians 4:6 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

TLB – “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don’t forget to thank him for his answers.”

5. Be Fully Persuaded!

Acts 27:23-25

23. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me

24. and said, `Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

25. So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

Acts 27:26 - Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

Heb. 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.