

**“Also for us...”**

We face the same struggle as Abraham.

And we also must not allow circumstances and appearances to determine what we will believe... hope... trust... live out...

We must know what God has promised to us, and be confident in His power to do what He promised.

We must choose to hope in God – when there is no hope in the world.

God calls each of us to a growing experience of life—of focusing on God, believing God, loving God, honoring God, worshiping God, relying on God, serving God, etc...

*“God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”*

*(C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity)*

**Going deeper in the word...**

1. How can we have “hope”—when situations appear “hopeless”?
2. How can we grow in not being controlled by circumstances?
3. How are you “strengthened in faith”?
4. Are we “fully persuaded” God will do what He promised to do?
5. What is “justification”?

in the word



**romans**  
THE GOSPEL OF GOD

**Abraham’s Faith—and Ours**

Romans 4:18-25

**We are learning:**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s way to “credit righteousness” (by grace) to sinners who have faith in Him.

Abraham was credited with righteousness through faith, and we become his spiritual children by believing as he believed.

We can grow in faith—by learning from Abraham’s example.

**The positive character of Abraham’s faith. (18-22)**

<sup>18</sup> *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*

**So... What did Abraham do?**

How did he “in hope believe”—when “against all hope”?

**1. He faced the facts (without weakening in his faith).**

<sup>19</sup> *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.*

**2. He did not waver through unbelief.**

<sup>20</sup> *Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God...*

**3. He grew stronger in his faith.**

*...but was strengthened in his faith...*

**4. He gave glory to God.**

*...and gave glory to God,...*

**5. He was persuaded God could do.**

<sup>21</sup> *...being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*

<sup>22</sup> *This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

**His faith is an illustration for us. (23-25)**

<sup>23</sup> *The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*