



FAITH LIKE ABRAHAM'S ROMANS 4:16-25

Context & Big Idea

- The world is not as it should be—relationships broken, especially with God.
- “Righteousness” = relational right-standing; similar to justice.
- Humanity has created a massive righteousness gap through sin; we cannot fix it.
- Options:
 - God pours out deserved wrath (Rom 1).
 - We try harder (always fails).
 - God provides righteousness as a free gift through grace, received by faith.

Abraham as Example

- Abraham declared righteous *not* by works but by faith (4:4–5).
- Promise available to *all* as a free gift—no exceptions—if we have faith like Abraham's.

What “Faith Like Abraham's” Looks Like (Hebrews 11)

1. Faith in the God who raises the dead (v.17–19)

- Abraham acknowledged reality (“as good as dead”) yet trusted God's power.
- True faith does not deny circumstances; it **defies** them.

- Examples: God can revive dying bodies, restore broken relationships, provide amid lack.
- Faith = believing God can overcome barriers that limit us.

2. Faith in the God who creates new things out of nothing

- God doesn't need “ingredients” to fulfill his promises.
- Abraham had no child, yet believed God could create a nation.
- Encouragement: God can forgive deeply, rebuild shattered lives, bring purpose where none exists.

3. Faith focused on God, not outcomes

- Faith is not demanding God deliver our plans.
- True faith submits desires to God's will.
- Max Lucado: “Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right.”

4. Faith that acts (James 2)

- False faith = intellectual agreement with no life change.
- True faith produces obedience, integrity, and transformed living.
- “I am righteous, so I want to live righteously”—works flow from identity, not vice-versa.

Self-Examination

- Is my faith wavering?
- Is my faith inactive or disconnected from how I live?
- Am I trusting God's character, or merely wanting God to fulfill my plans?

Why God Is Trustworthy

- God raised Jesus from the dead—ultimate proof of power.
- Jesus died for our sins and was raised to make us right with God.
- God has already demonstrated he can raise the dead and create something from nothing—so he can be fully trusted.

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is the best thing about being the age or stage of life you are in right now?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. How do we personally discern the difference between “facing the facts” and “being controlled by the facts” when it comes to trusting God in impossible situations—what does faithful realism look like in practice?
2. In what ways might we, even unintentionally, refuse God's gift of righteousness—what attitudes, habits, or assumptions keep us tapping our own “insufficient funds” card instead of receiving grace?
3. When have you experienced faith that required action beyond intellectual agreement—what did it cost, and how did it shape your understanding of what real faith is?
4. If faith like Abraham's involves believing God's promises even when there are “no ingredients” to work with, what is one area of your life right now where you feel invited to trust God for something that seems humanly impossible—and what might active faith look like there?

Practice for the Week: “Name the Dead Thing & Trust God With It”

1. Identify one “dead” or “impossible” situation.

Ask:

- Where in my life do I feel hopeless, powerless, or stuck?
- What situation feels “as good as dead,” like Abraham described?

2. Pray Abraham's prayer of trust.

“God, You give life to the dead and call things into existence that do not yet exist.

Here is what feels dead in my life: _____.

I trust You with it. Strengthen my faith.”

Keep it simple, honest, and steady. Pray this same short prayer once a day.

3. Take one small step of active faith.

- A conversation you've been avoiding.
- A small act of obedience.
- A practical step toward reconciliation.
- A habit to begin or break.
- A risk that aligns with faith in God's character, not the certainty of the outcome.

Choose something small, concrete, and doable this week.

4. Reflect at the end of the week.

- How did God meet me in this?
- *Did anything shift in my trust, my outlook, or my actions?*
The goal isn't to solve the situation—it's to grow “strong in faith,” like Abraham did.

This practice helps move faith from ideas → trust → action in a simple, grounded way.

