



LIVING BY FAITH (SERIES)

2. Faith That Obey

2026 February Calendar – Faith & Discipleship Activation

Teaching Series: Living by Faith (Strengthening marriages)

Special Focus: Family & Marriage - “Love That Lasts”

February 2026 is a month of intentional faith and discipleship as we focus on strengthening families and building marriages that reflect God’s heart. Under the teaching series “Living by Faith”, we are turning our attention to the foundation of the home - marriage - believing that strong marriages produce strong families, strong churches, and strong communities.

Romans 4:10-17, 22-25

Righteousness comes by faith in God’s promise—not by works, religious rituals, or human effort—and that same faith gives life, inheritance, and hope through Christ.

Main Takeaway: True faith is active obedience to God, stemming from a deep trust in His integrity and ability to fulfill His promises, even when circumstances are challenging or understanding is incomplete. It prioritizes God's word over perceived reality or external forms of religiosity. Abraham's Righteousness by Faith (Romans 4:10-17, 22-25)

1. Righteousness imputed while uncircumcised:

- *Abraham* was declared righteous **before** he was circumcised.
- *Circumcision* served as a *sign* and *seal* of righteousness already obtained through faith, not its cause.

Purpose of Abraham's example: To make him the **father of all who believe**, whether circumcised or uncircumcised, so righteousness could be credited to them.

Promise through faith, not law:

- The promise to Abraham to *inherit the world* came through the righteousness that came by faith, not through adherence to the law.
- The promise is by faith to guarantee it through **grace** to *all descendants* (both those under the law and those of Abraham's faith).

God's nature and Abraham's belief:

- Abraham is our father *in God's sight*, in whom he believed.
- God is described as He who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist.

Abraham's unwavering faith:

- Did not weaken in faith despite his body being "already dead" (at ~100 years old) and Sarah's barrenness.
- Was *fully convinced* that God could and would perform what He had promised.
- This conviction was credited to him for righteousness.

Relevance for us: Abraham's story was written not for him alone, but also for *us who believe* in God who raised *Jesus, our Lord, from the dead*. Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

2. The Nature of Faith: Faith That Obeys

Message Title: Faith that Obeys

Core Distinction: It's about **faith that obeys**, not merely faith that talks or faith that calls scripture.

Faith is Action: Faith is not just agreement; it is **actions**.

- Analogy: Imagine faith as a **moving vehicle**, not a dead one.
- Faith is obedience in motion.

Last Sunday's Message: "Faith that is alive" implies active trust and expectation in God.

Point 1: Faith Believes Before It Sees (Romans 4:9-12)

Abraham's Example: God declared Abraham righteous **before** his circumcision. This timing was deliberate to prevent the conclusion that circumcision was the cause of salvation.

Breakthrough through belief: Our breakthrough (healing, deliverance) comes from *believing* in God's promises, not external acts or a pastor's touch.

God's Capacity: God has the capacity to increase the faith of those who hear His word, leading them to believe.

Circumcision Confirmed, Not Produced:

- Circumcision did not *produce* righteousness; it *confirmed* the righteousness already present by faith.
- Similarly, *baptism* confirms a person's righteousness received through belief in God.

Faith Precedes Outward Signs: Abraham's obedience (packing up and leaving) **preceded** his circumcision.

Salvation is NOT about:

1. **Religious performance** (e.g., church attendance).
2. **Spiritual heritage** (e.g., parents being religious).
3. **External activities** (e.g., being busy for church).

Wedding Ring Analogy: A wedding ring is a *symbol of a covenant already made*, not the maker of the marriage. The **covenant** (the commitment and faith) comes first.

What is NOT Faith:

- Church attendance.
- Ministerial titles.
- Christian vocabulary.
- Simply accepting God verbally (this is *obedience*).
- Calling scriptures without corresponding action.

Definition of Faith: Faith is trusting God enough to obey Him. This obedience must occur:

Before you see the results.

Before you understand everything.

Before you feel confirmation.

IV. Point 2: Faith Hopes Against Hope (Romans 4:18-19)

- **Abraham's Challenge:** God promised Abraham a son when he was nearly 100 years old, and Sarah's womb was "as good as dead."
- **Believing in Emptiness:** Abraham believed "in hope against hope," meaning he believed even when there was *nothing natural* to hope for.
- **Supernatural Hope:** When natural hope runs out, **supernatural hope** kicks in.

Faith does not deny reality:

- It acknowledges difficult circumstances and feelings ("what I'm going through is real").
- However, faith declares: "God is greater than what I see."

Shifting Focus: Abraham stopped focusing on his own body and Sarah's barrenness (the "finger") and instead *looked up to God* (the "direction"). He decided God was *more reliable than biology*.

The Question: Regardless of impossible situations (dead dreams, relationships, opportunities, or prayers), the crucial question is: **"Will you believe in God anyway?"**

Faith's Declaration: If God promises, He can perform it, not because it makes sense, but because He said it.

Point 3: Faith Trusts God's Integrity (Romans 4:21)

Fully Persuaded: Abraham was **fully persuaded** that what God had promised, He was also able to perform.

Beyond Superficial Belief:

- Not believing "after this" (half-heartedly or with doubt).
- Not merely "emotionally hyper" (God listens to quiet prayers, not just loud ones).
- Not just "morally inspired" (inspiration fades; sustained **obedience** and *living out* the word is the challenge).

The Root of Doubt: When we doubt God's ability to act in a situation, we are essentially questioning **God's power**.

Trusting God's Word: True faith relies on God's integrity, believing He will do what He said, because He said it.