

WALK LIKE ABRAHAM

"And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also **walk in the steps** of that **faith** of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised," Romans 4:12.

Man, oh man, we have a lot of information concerning faith when we study the life of Abraham - with whom God initiated His Covenant of faith.

The Covenant begins and continues as a promise until it is ratified by the blood of Jesus. Here, at Calvary, the Law was paid and removed. However, before the Lord arrives, Abraham's life reveals how the Covenant operates.

The Covenant is through faith, of course; but we must see that it began before the Law and even before circumcision was instituted. Abraham reveals this magnificent lesson of faith by his faithful walk; a walk that explains the meaning of faith, step-by-step. Romans 4 lays it out for us.

- 1) He was justified by faith, v2
- 2) He believed God and was counted for righteousness v3
- 3) God's "**reckoning grace**" did not come by works v4
- 4) Clearly, **faith** justifies the ungodly, counting **faith** as righteousness v5
- 5) David concurs: "**Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven**" vs 6-7
- 6) Since, faith was reckoned to Abraham, is it only to the circumcised? v9
- 7) No, Abraham was reckoned before circumcision; before the sign v10,11a
- 8) He's the father of all that believe; even though, not circumcised v11b
- 9) Abraham is a father of those who "**walk in the steps of that faith**" v12
- 10) The promise records that Abraham shall be "**heir of the world**" v13
- 11) The Law is not of faith, voids the promise, making **faith** ineffectual v14
- 12) The Law works wrath. It reveals sin and shows transgression v15
- 13) But, the promise is of faith, that is might be by grace v16
- 14) The promise is guaranteed by grace, to all Abraham's seed v16
- 15) Genesis says God "**made thee (Abraham) a father of many nations**" v17
- 16) Abraham becomes the father of faith by believing against hope v18
- 17) Abraham, even at age 100, has a son, an heir to the promise v19
- 18) Walking without staggering, Abraham's strong faith glorified God v20
- 19) No guess work! God said it, Abraham believed it v21
- 20) Therefore, by faith, the promise was counted (reckoned) to him v22
- 21) Not to Abraham only, but all who believe God; who raised Jesus v23

22) Faith delivers us from "our offenses" and grants us justification v24

Doctrinal points of Scripture abound in Abraham's life. Here's a few.

1) "The Faith Promise" includes those circumcised and the ones who are not.

2) As the father of faith, God gave Abraham a "promised Seed" in Isaac.

3) But, Jesus was the real "Seed," the guarantor of the promise. God gave Abraham the promise, but look to the birth of Jesus to fulfill the promise. After Jesus was born, the promise becomes a reality, working in the lives of all believers by the power of the Holy Spirit. "Now, we brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise," Galatians 4:28.

4. With Faith being the factor in God's promise, we see only one difference between the Old and New Testaments. In the O. T., Abraham's descendants received the promise of the Covenant coming - a future promise. But, in the New, the promise is secured now, based upon the resurrected life of Jesus.

5. As with Abraham, the "promise" was given to the first born son in his lineage. Yet, Genesis reports that some first-born sons were rejected.

6. Ishmael was a natural born first-born son; Esau, as well. But Ishmael was of the flesh and not of promise; and Esau sold his first-born right.

7. Faith is the continuing factor of service to the Almighty. Abraham reveals that faith was exercised, from the beginning of the call, to end. The tenet is set for us by the father of faith, showing that a believer must exercise faith initially and, during his Christian walk, continually (Repentance is of faith).

8. Since God is light (1 Jn 1:5), He expects light to always shine when He speaks it into existence; whether, "in the beginning" (Ge 1:3), the Tabernacle & Temple (Lev 24:2) or, in the life of the believer, "who are called out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pe 2:9) and who are "to walk in the light" (1 Jn 1:7).

9. Jesus was the Seed of Abraham. Therefore, those of faith in both testaments will inherit with Abraham and shall be in the Lord's faithful Bride.

As with Esau or, with the first generation of wilderness Israelites, not all the saved ones of the two testaments shall inherit with Abraham. The inheritance shall be given to those with understanding faith. Believers, like Abraham walked, leave the world and keep on the faith walk - that "narrow way" that Jesus taught (Mt 7:14), "Looking for the city that God promised" Hebrews 11 (Also see Mt 7:21; Gal. 5:20).

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, 'And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ,'" Ro 4:16.