The Rock

Sunday 12 July 2016

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**Faith like Abraham:**

Key verses

* **Heb 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

But *without* (**apart from**) *faith* (**revelation from God that is believed and acted on**) it is *impossible* (**without power/has no power**) to please him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

* **Rom 4:16-24**
1. Therefore, the **promise** comes **by** **faith**, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to **all** **Abraham’s** offspring (**seed**)—not only to those who are of the law but also to **those** **who** **have** **the** **faith** **of** **Abraham**. He is the father of us all.
2. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” *(Gal 3:8 the gospel, the good news, preached to Abraham in advance)* He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.
3. 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**.”
4. **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.
5. Yet **he** **did** **not** **waver** **through** **unbelief** regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,
6. being **fully** **persuaded** that God had power to do what he had promised.
7. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”
8. The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,
9. but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.
* **Gal 3:19-25**
1. Why the Law then? It was **added** because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made**.
2. Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one.
3. Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.
4. But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
5. **But** **before** **faith** **came**, **we were kept in custody under the law**, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.
6. Therefore the **Law** has **become** **our** **guide**/tutor to lead us to Christ, so **that** we may be **justified** by **faith**.
7. **But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.**
* **Gal 4:21-31**
1. Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says?
2. For it is written that Abraham had two sons, **one by** the **slave** woman and the **other** by the **free** woman.
3. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the **free** **woman** was born as the result **of** a **divine** **promise**.
4. These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.
5. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.
6. **But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.**
7. For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”

1. **Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise**.
2. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.
3. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”
4. Therefore, brothers and sisters, **we** **are** not children of the slave woman, but **of the free woman**.
* **Heb 2:10-11**
1. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in **bringing** **many** **sons** **to** **glory**, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
2. For both **He** **who** **sanctifies** **and** **those** who are **being** **sanctified** **are all of one**, for which reason **He** is not ashamed to **call** **them** **brethren**,
3. saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”