

Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

LESSON NO. 9 - Please again read Acts 14:1-20. (Because this passage carries such important foundational truths, it might be good to give it additional attention before we pass on.)

Acts 14:1 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that **a great multitude** both of the Jews and of the Greeks **believed**.

Question: What is the most simple, complete definition of SAVING FAITH?

- Simple Truth and Definition: **FAITH IS believing ALL of God's promises are TRUE. We are totally convinced that all of God's promises are certain and will ultimately be brought to perfect completion in His perfect timing, including our own resurrection from the dead.**

Theme No. 1: Do you truly believe Romans 10:9-13 that if you **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and **believe** [Note: This is complementary word, which also must include the words "trust in" which helps explain the core foundation of saving faith.] **in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Theme No. 2: Do you have the faith that you will be **ULTIMATELY** raised from death by the resurrection power and command of Jesus Christ who defeated death?

- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 But **now Christ is risen from the dead**, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [died]. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even **so in Christ all** [who believe and trust in Christ] **shall be made alive**. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. **The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.**

Question: What does Saving Faith in Jesus Christ look like? Who is the object of the true faith that saves and produces eternal life? The object of saving Faith is Jesus Christ, who has the power to raise the dead [see John 11:40-44; Luke 7:12-15; Luke 8:50-56] and whom God the Father **raised from the dead and appointed ruler and judge** over the entire universe. [see Mark 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33; Acts 5:31; Acts 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22].

- Romans 4:2-4 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**" Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

Question: What did Abraham believe? Answer: Abraham believed God would produce an heir even though he and Sarah were thought to be past child producing time.

- Genesis 15:4-5 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but **one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.**" Then He

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brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

- Genesis 22:15-18 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and **multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore**; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.
- Hebrews 11:11-13 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore **from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude**—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
- Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," **concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead**, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Since the fear of death came with the sin of Adam + Even, it has been mankind's weightiest burden. Christ came to pay the sin penalty of death to deliver all who would trust in Him from both the present fear of death and the eternal power of death. Abraham believed God could and would raise His own promised children from the dead.

- Hebrew 2:14-16 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that **through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil**, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.
- Galatians 3:5-9 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— just as Abraham **"believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."** Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then **those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.**

All people who believe and trust as did Abraham will be counted as righteous and imputed with the very righteousness of God's perfect Son, Jesus, upon their own death. This is why Christians are called the children of Abraham by faith.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus].

Question: How long did Abraham trust and believe in God's promise before seeing its fulfillment? 25 years. - Genesis 12:4; Genesis 21:5.

Question: Why did Jesus have to die? So that we, His brothers and sisters, would NOT have to eternally die and so we would be **delivered from the fear of death**. Jesus believed that God would raise Him from the dead, just as Abraham believed that God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead when God asked Abraham to kill Isaac as a sacrificial act of worship.

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What did we learn from these great truths in this Lesson?

Abraham believed all of God's PROMISES. When we believe with Abraham's faith in all of God's promises, we also will see them fulfilled in the ultimate conclusion of being raised from the dead and transformed into the very likeness of perfect Jesus Christ.

- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.
- Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Despite the knowledge that persecution will also come with our faith and proclamation of our love for Jesus Christ, are we so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ, who died for us, that we cannot help but Tell Somebody today about Him?

One way we can tell others the incredible sure hope we have in Jesus Christ is to write down the day and events of our salvation just as Paul recorded his own "new-birth" in Acts 9. Please send your Story to us so we may rejoice with you and glorify God's great work!

We love to receive your questions. Your questions can be sent to write2stm@gmail.com or WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com.

All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis