

Introduction:

- When I think of the Faith of Abraham
 - I think Abraham had the Mark 11:22-24, God kinda faith. That is the highest kind of faith! This prompts two questions:
 - Is it a higher kind of faith because it is harder to get to mountain moving faith? or...
 - Is it higher kind of faith because it is a faith associated with a higher purpose?
- October 7th, 2007, Prophet Bob Jones gave FCC this Word: *"What I saw this morning—we were at Abraham's house, only it was up on top of a mountain that we had to climb. And the ladder there was easy to reach. But, every one of you are going to have to climb it. So every one of you, are called to climb higher, and to come into Abraham's blessings. But you need to keep climbing, for that ladder is there and you won't fall. One thing for sure, as long as you climb, you won't fall into anything. So keep climbing! Every round will be a new excitement for you. **And up there, awaits the faith of Abraham for this body here.** This is a private word for this church here. At the top of that ladder that you are climbing is Abraham's faith awaiting you!"*
 - This word is a call to this church to focus on growing up in the Faith of Abraham.
- Again, my goal this morning is to stir our faith and renew a focus on growing up in our faith. We will look at three things: Abraham Didn't Let Doubt Dull His Destiny, The Faith of Abraham Shines, The Higher Purpose In Abraham's Faith. Romans 4:20

I. Doubt Dulls Your Destiny You were created with a purpose! You are not a mistake. But there are two things that will keep you out of or from reaching your purpose. One is doubt and the other is unbelief.

A. There is much confusion around these two words. For example:

1. In Matthew 17:20 Jesus tells the disciples that they could not cast out a demon because of their unbelief. God intended them to cast it out.
2. In Mark 9:24 "If you can?" Jesus calls out the man's doubt. The man says, "Lord I believe help my unbelief."
3. In Mark 11:23 Jesus says if you do not doubt you will have what you say you have. James calls this double mindedness.
4. In Matthew 14:31 Peter takes his eyes off Jesus and starts to sink and Jesus says, "You of little faith"
5. John 10:26 The Pharisees are filled with unbelief. They refused to believe.
6. Both words are used to communicate lack of faith or no faith (as in case of Pharisees.) And both words hinder us from receiving God's promises.

B. Doubt comes from the Greek word 'diakrino'. Krino meaning judgment with the preposition it means to not be able to make a decision, therefore waver, or to doubt.

1. In Mark 11:23 it is a final lack of faith that God can really do what is promised or requested.

2. It involves wavering, *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."* (James 1:6, ESV)
- C. Doubt gets its power when it is spoken. You may have a doubtful thought but you do not have to entertain it. But when you speak it, look out! Your confession empowers it.
 1. Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Proverbs 18:21
 2. How do you know if you are speaking death? le. Terri Savel Foy, "If you are wondering if you are speaking death, tag this phrase on the end of your sentence: "That is just the way I want it."
 - a) I am so stupid ...and that's just the way I want it.
 - b) I will always be poor... and that's just the way I want it.
 - c) I never get a break... and that's just the way I want it.
 - d) The joy of the Lord is my strength... and that's just the way I want it.
 - e) The blessings of the Lord makes one rich...and that's just the way I want it.
- D. Unbelief is the opposite of faith. It distrusts, sees God as unreliable, and untrustworthy.
- E. The good news is God is patient with our doubt. You do not see him turning away those who come to him doubting. You see him working with their little faith until they believe. le. Thomas, man with withered hand, Peter on the water. But the faith of...

II. The Faith of Abraham Shines!

- A. Abraham was like a little child.
 1. Like a child takes people at their word. Abraham took God at His word.
 2. Jesus said it this way. From the Passion Bible *"Learn this well: Unless you dramatically change your way of thinking and become teachable, and learn about heaven's kingdom realm with the wide-eyed wonder of a child, you will never be able to enter in."* (Matthew 18:3, TPT) Children take you at your word. Abraham took God at His word!
- B. Abraham did not waver. (Romans 4:20)
 1. He trusted God for who He is. It was easy for him to decide that the "Lord, He is God!"
 2. *"No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness.""* (Romans 4:20-22, ESV) He was not tossed about like a wave on the sea.
- C. Abraham is an example of truth faith; he accepts God's promise without distrust or wavering (Romans 4:20).
 1. He leaves nation, family and fathers house.
 2. He will raise my son from the dead if I sacrifice him.
- D. God's appearing (3x) and God's word to him were revelation that made faith possible.
 1. Remember the process from last week: illumination, revelation, appropriation (obedience), and manifestation.

2. The faith of Abraham shines because of his willingness to take God at His word.
3. God is saying, "Freedom, I want you to have a heart like a little child that takes me at my word. Don't waver between two opinions. Trust me! Decide to walk/go with me!"

III. The Higher Purpose In Abraham's Faith

- A. When I think of the words: The Faith of Abraham, I think of something that is really big and really important, really quite grand. Let me present this thought today: The faith of Abraham is about a higher purpose than him just having children and being great. It is more than being a father and a father of many nations. Those are blessings that he would enjoy and those are blessings that are his reward. But the real reward was God himself! Genesis 15:1, "*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*" (Genesis 15:1, NKJV)
1. We have a tendency to think that the prophetic word given to freedom about the faith of Abraham being here is about us personally (there is an element of that.) But there is a higher purpose beyond our personal needs and desires that God is after. We find it in Romans 4.
 2. In Romans 4 we find Paul speaking of the higher purpose of Abraham's faith.
 - a) Abraham obtained righteousness! "*For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."*" (Romans 4:3, ESV) That faith is certainly for a higher purpose! That faith makes you a new man! That faith makes you stand out in the sight of God. That is what gives you your pass into the Kingdom! You are made righteous by faith. WOW!
 - b) Abraham was justified by faith! "*And to the one who ... believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,"* (Romans 4:5, ESV) God justifies the ungodly.
 - (1) He does not hold our sin against us! That is certainly a higher purpose! WOW!
 - (2) God no longer counts our sins against us! "*What happy progress comes to them when they hear the Lord speak over them, "I will never hold your sins against you!"*" (Romans 4:8, TPT) WOW! again.
 - c) He obtained righteousness before he was circumcised! He could not trust in the work he did (circumcision) but in only what God offered! Because of that everyone else receives the same. Righteousness by faith! This was the higher purpose of Abraham's faith.
 - d) The only thing Abraham had to boast about was what God did when Abraham moved in faith! Romans 4:2 Message: "*If Abraham, by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story.*" (Romans 4:2, MSG) The only thing we can boast

in is what God does when we move in faith! WOW!

3. Then we find this odd verse in Hebrews: *"For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."* (Hebrews 11:10, ESV)
 - a) It is not some work of man.
 - b) It was not the accomplishment of a group of men.
 - c) It was a work of God. *But He was looking for a city that had eternal foundations! The designer was God! And the builder was God!* (Hebrews 11:10, NLT)
 - d) I believe that Abraham was given a glimpse of the Rev. 21:9-27 city!
 - e) Abraham was seeing beyond Isaac into the reality that God was showing him... those who would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ! This is where Paul finishes Romans chapter 4. After all Abraham believed so strongly... that he was given the righteousness of God because of his faith. (Genesis 15:6) So it is for all who believe in Jesus!
- B. May I set before you today that **the Faith of Abraham was for a God purpose**. This is why he is considered the Father of the faith. *"That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. **It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed.**"* (Romans 4:13, MSG)
 1. He remains a Patriarchal voice and figure that we look up to today.
 2. Father—meaning we can model our lives after him. Father—in that he has years of experience and speaks to us in wisdom today. Maybe this is what God is after in us.
- C. The faith of Abram is found in Genesis 12:1 He leaves his nation, family, and father. The faith of Abraham is also found in Genesis 22. Sacrifice your son. Two powerful statements of faith.
 1. *We will come again.* To his servant
 2. *God will provide.* To his son, Isaac

Conclusion:

- There is everything that we want God to do for us and there are the specific things God wants us to do for Him.
- What God wants to do in and through us is of a much higher purpose!
- The faith of Abraham is about a higher purpose than him just having children and being great.
- What is the Faith of Abraham?
 - Your faith, that does not waver.
 - Your faith, that obtains righteousness that comes by faith alone!
 - Your faith, that is born out of a solid relationship with God.