

FAITH AND THE GLORY OF GOD

Romans 4:18-21

God is glorified when we believe in Him and act in faith

I. ABRAHAM'S FAITH (17-20a)

A. HE BELIEVED GOD (17-18)

1. Believing His power (17)
2. Believing His promise (18)
 - a. Against all hope
 - b. He believed he'd become the father of many nations - See Genesis 15:1-6

B. HE BEHAVED ACCORDING TO HIS BELIEF (19-20b)

- Note a similar example of David with Goliath in I Sam. 17:45-47

 1. Not becoming weak in faith (19)
 - He believed in a God who didn't have to make sense!
 2. Not wavering in unbelief (20a)
 - He faced the facts of his situation but was not phased by the facts!
 3. Growing strong in faith (20b)
 - He became more and more empowered

II. GOD'S GLORY (20c-21 with Genesis 21:1-8)

A. GOD GETS PROMOTED (20c-21)

1. The Outcome (20c)
 - a. Abraham gave glory to God
 - b. His faith shined the light on God's trustworthy character
2. The Outlook (21)
 - A trust in God's promised heir, land and city

B. GOD GETS PRAISED - Genesis 21:6

1. What had been the laughter of misgivings ... see Gen. 17:15-17 and 18:12
2. Now becomes the laughter of merriment! - Genesis 21:6

C. GOD GETS PROCLAIMED - Genesis 21:1-8

1. Just think of the spectacle!
 - a. A great, great grandfather-type pushing his son's baby stroller!
 - b. A great, great grandmother-type nursing a child!

Over please >

2. Just think of the celebrations (6,8)
3. Just think of the reality
 - Every time Isaac's name was called people would be amused and amazed at what God did! > WOW!
4. Just think of the repetition
 - Isaac's name appears 121 times in Scripture

CONCLUSION:

God is glorified when we believe His promises and behave accordingly

SO ...

1. Do you know and think about what God has promised you?
2. Do you believe God's promises?
3. Do you behave like you believe?
4. Do you boast about God and draw attention to Him?