

Monday, February 19, 2024 - Day 5 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am truly sorry for the moments yesterday where I missed the mark, where I did not do what you asked me to do. I ask your forgiveness and that you might give me the strength to better follow you today. May your mercies be new today, and may I give you the glory you rightly deserve.

Read Romans 4:13-25 (NIV)

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—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. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." 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. 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." 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. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Answer the following questions:

Paul is writing about a familiar passage we just read in week one of Lent. He is reminding all people that the promise of God to Abraham, the promise of having descendants numbering the stars, and that they would inherit the world did not come through the Law. Those promises were received through faith. God made Abraham many promises, and in response, Abraham doubted God. Abraham disobeyed God. Abraham and Sarah laughed at God's promises. But when push came to shove, Abraham trusted God's promises and God honored his promises.

1. Take some time today and reflect on how you have responded to God in your life. Have you doubted? Disobeyed? Laughed? Wandered away? How have you responded to God at work in your life?
2. When did faith come into play in those responses?
3. Did you notice how God responded to Abraham? How?
4. Here is God's promise to you – In Jesus Christ, you are accepted. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have received the fulfilled promise of God's grace. And God has adopted you into His family of faith. You are God's child. Do you believe that promise? Do you trust in it?

Close in Prayer

Almighty God, your promises are clear. Your love is on full display. Despite my doubt, my disobedience, and my distrust, You have chosen me. You have redeemed me. You have adopted me. You have afforded me grace to repay a sin-debt I could not repay myself. Forgive me for my sin today, and hold tight to me, for I will try to wander. Remind me of your faithfulness and your promises in those moments. For you are beautiful and wonderful. Amen.