

Abraham, the Man of Faith

Gal. 3:7-9

September 29th, 2024

I. Introduction

Abraham's _____ has been one of the central features throughout our study. And it shouldn't surprise us that when the New Testament authors reflect on Abraham's life, it is his faith that takes center stage. Abraham is "the man of faith," and what is more, as Paul also points out in our passage, v. 7: it is only "those of faith who are sons of Abraham," who, v. 9, "are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."

II. The Text — Gal. 3:7-9 (ESV)

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

III. By Faith, Abraham . . .

In ch. 12, the Lord called Abraham to leave the land of his fathers and to come out to a land that the Lord Himself would show him, and how did he respond? By _____, Abraham went out to the land. In ch. 13, Abraham was with Lot in the land, and they were both too rich. God's blessing rested heavily upon them so that the land could not support both of them. Knowing that something had to change, how did Abraham respond? He, by _____, gave Lot the decision, and trusted in God's promise of blessing.

In ch. 14, when marauding kings came from the north, Abraham by *faith* rested in God. He remained out of the fray until Lot was taken captive. Once he heard about what happened to his nephew, Abraham by _____ rallied a household army. He gathered his 318 trained servants, and a couple of his neighbors and went in pursuit of the Babylonian squad. He attacked them, defeated them, recovered Lot, and took all the spoils. In ch. 15, when the Lord met Abraham in a vision and called him to come outside of his tent and look up at the sky, and the Lord promised to him that such would be his descendants for number, Abraham heard this, and by _____ trusted in God's promise.

What is more, by _____, Abraham and Sarah offered hospitality to the Lord when He visited them incognito (ch. 18). By _____, Abraham argued with the Lord, pleading for the innocent in Sodom when God made it known what He was about to do—and by faith, through his intercession, Lot was spared (ch. 18). By *faith*, Abraham and Sarah awaited the promised son Isaac (ch. 21). By *faith*, Abraham cast out his other son, Ishmael, with his mother, Hagar, entrusting them to the care of the Lord (ch. 21). And by *faith*, Abraham travelled to Mount Moriah and prepared to offer up Isaac, his son, his beloved son, as a burnt offering to the Lord (ch. 22). And by *faith*, Abraham mourned the loss of his wife, Sarah, grieving over her, purchasing a burial site, burying his dead, and doing what he could to help prepare his son, Isaac, to walk faithfully with the Lord in his generation (chs. 23-24).

IV. Abraham's Faith

First. Abraham's faith had _____ for its object. When we say that Abraham did this or that by faith—we mean that he did this or that by *trusting in God*. And in particular: by trusting in God *as One who is faithful to His promises*. This is said of Sarah, but it applies to both Sarah and Abraham: Hebrews 11:11, “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.*”

- Abraham's faith was not blind; it was not irrational or silly or empty.
- Abraham's faith had intelligible content. This is what Reformed theologians described as *notitia*, a Latin word meaning _____.
- Abraham's faith involved _____, what theologians refer to with the Latin word, *fiducia*.

Second. Abraham's faith is _____. He trusted in the God “who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did” (Rom. 4:17ff). Contrary to hope in hope he believed, even when all looked bleak—when Sarah remained barren decade after decade, when he himself was as good as dead, being 100 years old—yet he trusted that God would provide him with a son through Sarah. And, contrary to hope, on Mount Moriah, when everything was to be laid on the altar, he hoped against hope. He believed and trusted in the Lord even when he was surrounded by darkness. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what God had promised God was also able to perform.

Third. Abraham's faith was paired with _____. The New Testament speaks of him as the man of faith, and as we look over his life, we see lots and lots of obedience. James makes the distinction between dead faith and living faith. Dead faith is without works, but _____ faith *obeys*.

V. The Outcome of His Faith

Scripture says that if we share the faith of Abraham, then we are his sons. And if we are sons, what is the blessing that rests upon us?

1. **The blessing of** _____. Abraham believed God, and God reckoned him righteous. He was called a ‘friend’ of God.
2. _____ **over all our enemies**. The Lord promised Abraham that his descendants would “possess the gate of their enemies,” and the Lord Jesus Christ, reiterating His promise, spoke of the Church prevailing against the gates of hell. All our enemies—Satan, the world, and sin—shall be trampled beneath our feet in due time.
3. **Eternal** _____. It is too little of a thing for God's covenant people to possess a small slice of this earth. Instead, all nations and the earth with it has been given to the offspring of Abraham, so that, according to His promise, we await “a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:13).

VI. And as we come to the Table . . .