

Week of June 17-June 23

FATHER ABRAHAM

Scripture Reading: Read Romans chapter 4

If you or your children have ever attended a Vacation Bible School, you've probably heard the kids' song, "Father Abraham." It's sort of a Christian version of the Hokey Pokey. The first verse goes like this:

Father Abraham had many sons; many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them; and so are you. So let's just praise the Lord!
[Person yells out "right arm" and begins swinging right arm.]

With each succeeding verse, more body parts begin to move until eventually on the final verse the person is swinging both arms, marching with both legs, nodding their head, blinking their eyes and then sits down. It's quite a feat of coordination and it's tiring too!

Although we know that the apostle Paul did not have this song in mind when he penned Romans 4, he does mention Abraham as an amazing example of faith to follow. Take a look at what Paul says about his faith: *"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."*

Did you notice that Abraham trusted God even though the "facts" said it was impossible due to his and Sarah's age? How could he be so "illogical"? It's because God had given him a promise and he dared to believe in a *"God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were."* Long before Isaac was even conceived, God prophesied his birth. He called Isaac forth in the spiritual realm, so to speak, before he was manifested in the physical realm. Abraham believed this and trusted the Lord.

God still operates the same way today. He speaks a promise into our hearts of something he has already determined to do. It's a done deal from His perspective and He calls us to trust Him even when we don't see the answer immediately or the circumstances seem to be against us as they were with Abraham as his body grew older and older. We are called not to stagger at God's promises through unbelief but to persevere in faith and trust that God has the power to do as he has promised. Father Abraham found God faithful to fulfill His promise. So will you... so, let's just praise the Lord!

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Just for fun, sing and act out the motions to the song, "Father Abraham." Remind yourself that Abraham was a man of faith and he left footsteps for you to follow in trusting God's promises in your life even when the answer is delayed a bit. Pray for the perseverance to continue trusting in a God who keeps His word.

Take-a-way: *True faith isn't afraid of the facts. It just chooses to trust God's promises instead. Just ask Father Abraham.*