

102024

## “In The Footsteps of Faith”

*Romans 4:13-25*

Shawn Reese

Call: Ps 100 (NIV)

Scripture: Gal 3:6-9 (ESV)



### Background

God calls Abraham and Sarah out of moon-worshipping idolatry in the city of Ur, near Babylon. In Genesis 12, God shows up and tells Abraham to “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you” (Gen 12:1). Abraham is called to leave and follow in radical trust. Abraham’s story is a story of faith..

### Sermon Text: Romans 4:13-25

*13 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. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 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.*

*17 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. 18 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.” 19 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. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being*

*fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22 This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

*23 The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

## **Discussion Questions**

### Preparation

1. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
2. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
3. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

### Sunday Questions:

1. What does Paul say about the relationship between the law and faith in verses 13-15?
  - A. How does Paul explain that Abraham’s righteousness came through faith rather than the law?
  - B. What does this tell us about how we relate to God's promises?
2. Why is it important that the promise comes by faith so that it may be by grace?
  - A. How does this distinction between law and grace impact our understanding of salvation?
  - B. How do you experience God’s grace personally?
3. Paul describes Abraham’s faith in God’s promise.
  - A. What does it mean to “hope against hope,” as Abraham did (v.18)?
  - B. What lessons can we learn from how Abraham handled the apparent impossibility of God’s promise?
4. How does Abraham’s unwavering faith (v. 20-21) inspire us in our own spiritual journey?
  - A. Can you think of a situation in your life where you’ve had to trust God, even when circumstances looked bleak?
5. Verse 25 speaks of Jesus being delivered for our sins and raised for our justification.
  - A. How does Jesus' resurrection strengthen your belief in God’s promises?

### Bonus Questions

1. Reflect on verse 16, where it says the promise depends on faith so that it may rest on grace. How do grace and faith interact in this passage?
2. Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though his body was "as good as dead" (verses 19-21).
  - A. What do you think allowed Abraham to maintain such strong faith despite the physical reality?
3. Paul says that Abraham’s story was not written for his sake alone but also for us (verses 23-24).
  - A. How does this passage help you understand what it means to have faith in Christ today?