

Do I Need Perfect Faith?

Why is Abraham a good example of getting right with God by faith? (3:6-9)

1. Abraham was an idol-worshipping [Gentile](#) (Josh. 24:1-6) before God called him.
2. Before Abraham became the father of the Jewish nation, God declared him righteous because of he believed God. (Genesis 15:1-6)
3. Gentiles get right in God's sight on the basis of faith, the same way Abraham did (by believing God, by trusting Him).
4. Abraham was declared right in God's sight on the basis of faith over 500 years before the God gave the Law to Moses, so keeping the Law of Moses has nothing to do with being right before God.

POINT: You become a child of God the [same way](#) Abraham did: by taking God at His word, by trusting God's promise.

Why is the Law God gave Moses not good for getting right with God? (3:10-12)

1. The Law pronounces a curse ([condemnation](#)) on all who fail to keep it in its entirety (perfectly). It demands perfection (Deut. 27:26).
2. The Law itself teaches that people are justified by faith. When an Old Testament believer sinned, he believed God and trusted God's way of atonement by offering up a lamb and confessing his sin. (Lev. 1:1-4) Hab. 2:4 says that it is by faith that a person stands in a right relationship to God and lives before Him.
3. Jesus fulfilled the Law for us, in our place, such that through faith in Him, we may be redeemed. The word redeemed (vs. 13) means to buy out of slavery by paying a price. Jesus paid the price for our freedom, our deliverance, (1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 20:28) by being our lamb of atonement.

Why did Jesus pay the condemnation price for all people? (3:13-14)

1. So that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles. (14a)
 - A. The blessing of Abraham is restoration to the [relationship](#) with God for which God created people in the first place.
 - B. The blessing of Abraham is restoration to the [function](#) for which God created people in the first place, to be the channel of His blessing to the whole earth.
2. So that all people (both Jewish and Gentile) might together receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, thereby entering into a [father-child](#) relationship with God. (14b)
 - A. Jewish people did for the first time on Pentecost in Acts 2, and Gentiles did for the first time in Acts 10. Now all do at moment of faith. The moment you repented and believed in Jesus you were [adopted](#) into God's family.
 - B. God wants you to live in the Father-child relationship for which He created people, beginning with Adam and Eve way back in the Garden of Eden.
 - Sin disrupted the created relationship, the created order, the created design.
 - And ever since we have been out of sync with our Creator, out of sync with the created world in which we live, out of sync with our relationships with others, and even out of sync with and within ourselves.

- C. You become God's child the same way Abraham did: by faith, by believing God, by believing His word, His promise; by believing *in* Him. Abram had saving faith in God's promise and provision, not in his own performance. Place your faith in God's promise and provision, not in your performance.

What exactly do I have to believe?

Answer: I decide to believe what God has said (revealed, promised).

1. To Abraham it was the promise of descendants through whom the earth would be blessed.
2. To us it is the Descendant through whom the earth is blessed.
 - A. The promise of blessing on Abraham and through him to the Gentiles was fulfilled in [Christ](#). Jesus is the offspring of Abraham through whom Gentiles would receive the blessing and the Spirit and adoption as sons.
 - B. The gospel is *our sins credited to Jesus and His righteousness credited to us*. The gospel is Jesus forsaken (separated from God) in our place, so that we could be [restored](#) to our created place and to our created relationship with God, as His children.
 - C. Paul's point is that having believed in Jesus and received the Holy Spirit, the Gentiles are God's children [already](#), so they don't need circumcision or the Law of Moses to be "true sons of Abraham" as the agitators claimed.
 - D. We live by this. We build our lives on and around our faith-based relationship with God, not a performance-based religion. We never move on from saving faith. We live it out. We don't stay saved and grow, and finally land in heaven by maintaining self-performance standards. (Remember Gal. 3:3)

What about my doubts? What about my uncertainties?

What about my questions? What about my hesitation?

1. Jesus gets it. He understands. Come with the faith that you've got.
2. Hey, even Abraham had moments of doubt, but his decision was to believe God and to trust God's promise.
3. Perhaps you're thinking, "What about the claim in Romans 4:18-21 that Abraham believed without wavering?"

How can Paul say in Romans 4:20 that Abraham did not waver in faith when the historical record in Genesis 17 shows clearly that Abraham's faith did waver at times?
4. Actually, Romans 4:20 does not say that Abraham's faith never wavered. Romans 4:20 does not even mention "wavering". Romans 4:20 literally says "he did not decide against God's promise by unbelief".

Message

Believe God. Abraham did!

- The issue is whether you have decided to trust God, even though you don't have it all figured out yet.
- Deal with your doubts and hard questions in an intellectually honest fashion. Avoid making [ill](#)-informed decisions about God and faith.
- Respond in faith by believing what is clear, and continue to grow your understanding of what's still cloudy or fuzzy to you.