

- Without becoming weak in faith, Abraham “considered” or faced the facts:
  - His body was dead. Abraham was too old to be a father.
  - Sarah’s womb was dead. She was also past the age of childbearing.
 On both sides of the equation, Abraham faced an absolute impossibility. Yet Abraham had complete, unwavering faith (v20). He was “*fully persuaded*” (v21). He didn’t look for reasons to doubt God. Instead, he praised God for the blessing before it ever happened – “*giving glory to God.*” Faith doesn’t say, “This isn’t happening to me.” Faith says, “This is happening to me. But this isn’t God’s final word on the subject.” Faith believes that beyond the crisis a better day is waiting to be born. Faith “sees” things that are invisible to the naked eye. Abraham faced that fact and decided to believe God anyway. Believing God’s promise always gives glory to God.
- The truth is that Abraham did have a tough time seeing the fulfilment of God’s promise. In Genesis 16, Abraham took Sarah’s advice and took Hagar. And in Gen 17:17, “*Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old?.....*” Abraham seemed to waver? Was it shock and unbelief, or joy and amazement?
  - Abraham’s faith was not perfect, just as no believer’s faith is perfect. Paul is not saying that Abraham never had momentary hesitations, but that he avoided a deep-seated, permanent attitude of distrust in the promises of God. Abraham had his doubts. Doubting isn’t a sin. It’s what you do with your doubts that makes a difference. You either fight through your doubts or you give in to them. The point is, Abraham believed God in the face of discouraging facts and despite the knowledge that what God had promised could not happen naturally. In fact, Abraham grew stronger in faith as time passed by.
  - 99 years old Abraham got circumcised (Gen 17:23) – shows he is all in and he believes. It attested to his faith.

(ii) *Abraham believed in God’s Power, 4:21-25*

- Faith is not only belief in God’s promise, but also in God’s power because faith believes that God has the power to do what He has promised to do.
  - Faith is being fully persuaded (cf 14:5) or fully assured that God will do what God says He will do in His word and that God has the power to bring it to pass.
  - Abraham’s faith was not merely in what had been promised but in the God Who had promised. Abraham knew that what God promises, He always performs! That God is able to perform it. Our God is able!
 The essence of saving faith is taking God at His Word, no matter how difficult it may seem. Abraham did not focus on his impotence but God’s omnipotence.
- Verse 22 sums up and brings to climax Paul’s arguments in Romans 4:1-21 concerning Abraham’s justification by faith. Abraham believed God and his act

of faith was imputed or credited to him for righteousness. Paul says in Romans 4:23-25, the gospel as found in the life of Abraham, was not just for the patriarch, but for all those who trust in God who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead. These verses show that God the Father is so actively involved in our salvation.

- God imputes or credits righteousness to believers (vv23-24a).
- God must be believed as the Author of salvation (v24b).
- God raised Jesus from the dead (v24c; cf Jn 10:17-18).
- God delivered Jesus to the cross (v25a). The Jews and Romans who delivered Jesus over to death were but secondary causes; the primary actor at Calvary was the invisible hand of God. God the Father was delivering over His Son to the cross that Jesus would die for us.
- God designed that Jesus die for our sins (v25b). It was God the Father who gathered up all our iniquities and all our transgressions and laid that heavy burden upon His Son (2 Cor 5:21).
- God was satisfied with Jesus’ death for our sins (v25c). The resurrection of Christ from the dead becomes the Father’s validation that the life and the death of Christ was a perfect righteousness that has been imputed to us. The fact that the Father raised Jesus from the dead is the Father’s authentication, stamp of approval, that the death of Christ made a perfect atonement for our sin. Jesus’s life perfectly fulfilled all the demands of the law on our behalf.
- Abraham was counted righteous because he believed in the promise of God – it was his faith in God’s promise. All of us are saved by the same principle – faith. Our faith may not be as strong as Abraham’s, but it is not the strength of faith that saves us; it is the act of faith. It is the Object of faith that counts, not the degree.

Notes