

"The Faith of Abraham"



Introduction

Think for a moment about the best gift you have ever received. Now consider the amazing gift of relationship with God! Nothing in the universe is comparable to being in covenanted relationship with our Creator. But having faith is the key.

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Study** the difference between faith and works as manifested in the life of Abraham
- **Reflect** on the knowledge and wisdom of Paul as seen in his understanding of the Old Testament
- **Identify** ways in which we rely on our faith for a relationship with God

Scripture

Romans 4:1-12 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 15:1-6

About Today's Lesson...

As we continue to explore the theme of "Confident Hope" this quarter, the all-important element of faith continues to be the root of discussion. The Bible provides us with great examples of faith, many of which are highlighted in the eleventh chapter of the Book of Hebrews. Noah built an ark based on faith. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down. By faith, David slew Goliath. And by faith, the Israelites passed through the Red sea on dry land. Having faith is key to our salvation and we know that without it, it is impossible to please God.

In today's lesson, we examine the faith of the patriarch Abraham through the eyes of the Apostle Paul. More specifically, the Apostle Paul summons his knowledge from the Old Testament to support his position that belief in God - and not rules, traditions, or actions - makes us righteous. At issue during the writing of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome was the ritual of circumcision. Many steadfast Jewish believers of the day believed that all Christians, including Gentile converts, should be circumcised. However, the Apostle Paul refuted this notion by reminding his audience that Abraham was counted as righteous before God because of his belief in God - not because of his works of circumcision. Additionally, the Bible tells us that Abraham believed in God while still uncircumcised.

In the eyes of the Apostle Paul, Abraham lived an exemplary life of faith. Abraham faithfully stepped out on God's promises. And like Abraham, our faith can preserve us too, even before we know how God wants to use us.

Join Mt. Zion's Virtual Sunday School via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99731464449?pwd=dUZqWW5MVituL2hTY2NDdU8rVm9Kdz09>

Meeting ID: 997 3146 4449

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