

FORSAKING ALL I TRUST HIM = FAITH by Helen Pearce

intro the children Lars & Daniel, the seeds of faith

Today I would like to talk about Faith

Abraham was a man of great faith, not a orchid seed of faith or a mustard seed of faith but a man of exceptional faith so much so :- **Abraham was rightly related to God through his faith**, and so he was considered by God as righteous and justified. This agreement **between God and Abraham was the first step in God's act of grace** to reconcile sinful human beings to himself. God was making a covenant between himself and Abraham:- Abrahams part was to be obedient and circumcise all males in his household. Gods part was to give Abraham descendants too numerous to count. Most contracts are even trades. We give something and in return receive something of equal value. But when we become part of God's covenant family, **the blessings** we receive far outweigh what we must give up.

Paul tells us that the promise isn't for Abraham alone. **It's for us, too.** Just as Abraham was not justified by obeying the Law, we do not become justified or obtain righteousness by following the rules. **We become righteous through faith alone.**

Paul's point is that everyone comes to covenant relationship with God the same way Abraham did – **through faith.** All who believe in the resurrected Christ are heirs of the promises to Abraham; they belong to **the elect people of God.** Heirs of the promise, like Isaac and us, get there **through faith**, and that means both believing. God tells the truth and trusting God to do what he says he will do.

One verse in this passage leaps out at me every time I read it. Paul says that Abraham believed God's promise, **"hoping against hope."** Abraham knew that the fulfilment of the promise, depended on **no life or power that was his.** There was no ground of hope in himself or in his human condition. All he had to cling to **was the promise.**

And he did. **He hoped against hope**, because there wasn't anything else to hope against.

Abraham believed in a promise that must have seemed impossible to fulfil. How could an old man and an old woman possibly make a baby, let alone a whole family of nations?

Abraham believed God, and God credited it to him as righteousness for the simple reason that Abraham decided God was trustworthy. If God said the impossible would happen, Abraham believed it would happen.

Heb 11:1 faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

What things hold us back from grasping hold of Gods promise on our Faith journey?

Doubt can hold us back from plunging into the promise that God has for us.

It might be **doubt**, that we've heard correctly God's voice directing us; it might be **doubt** in our own abilities. It might be **doubt**, to take the leap of faith, when we know God is nudging us ! We must not hold onto the seed of faith but allow it to grow, by casting out doubt.

Each of us has the option of grasping hold of a promise from God.

God wishes to be exuberant in what he wants to give us, and through us, what he wants to give others. The promise is that we have a part to play in fulfilling that original promise to Abraham, **that we God's people, the inheritors of Abraham's faith**, would be a blessing to all. We can only do that through acting as though we really believe in the same power of God that raised Jesus from death to life. The only way I have found that I can maintain even a **mustard seed** sized faith in God (Matthew 17:20)

and set aside my **earthly doubts**, **is to** be constant in prayer, and willing to strengthen my relationship with him by reading his word. I have to learn to rely **more and more on the power of God to work through me**, way beyond what I know myself to be capable of, through continual practice. **Placing my seed of Faith in God's hands . I have to discover for myself afresh each day just how powerful is the love and grace of God. How powerful is the love and grace of God. Amen**