

“And Abraham Believed God: The Man of Faith” (Part 1)
Galatians 3:6-14

“So faith comes from HEARING, and HEARING through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). “And without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). “For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin” (Romans 14:23b). “No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew STRONG in his faith as he gave glory to God, FULLY CONVINCED that God was able to do what He promised. That is why his faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness’” (Romans 4:20-22).

- Abraham’s belief was shown to be genuine by his doing (Genesis 12:1-4). In the same way we show our faith to be genuine by obeying God.... *”And by this we know that we have come to know Him, IF we keep His commandments.” (1 John 2:3)*
- There are physical children of Abraham and there are spiritual children of Abraham...(Galatians 3:6-9)
 - *“I know that you are offspring of Abraham (physical); yet you seek to kill Me because MY WORD finds no place in you....They answered Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children (spiritually), you would be DOING the works Abraham (example of faith and works) did’.... You are of your father (spiritual) the devil, and your will is to DO your father’s DESIRES....Whoever is of God HEARS the words of God. The reason that you DO NOT HEAR them is that you are not of God.” (John 8:37,39,44,47)*
 - The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:5-6,17-21; Genesis 17:1-14):
 - There are a PEOPLE through which the Messiah would come (Matthew 1:1-17; Romans 9:3-8). The LIFESTYLE/RELIGION of these PEOPLE would give them a greater understanding of the promise and how it would be fulfilled (1 Peter 1:10-11). These things took on significance by faith.
 - There is a LAND from which that people will dwell and their Messiah will someday reign (Matthew 19:28; Romans 11:25-29; Revelation 20:1-6).
 - There is a PROMISE in which the Messiah will fulfill (Galatians 3:14; Genesis 12:3), which will be the means of salvation for all men for all time.
 - There is a FAITH through which that Messiah will be received, namely the kind of faith Abraham had (Galatians 3:9).
- (Galatians 5:3,6): Circumcision, in the Old Testament, only had spiritual significance when it was accompanied by faith (Romans 2:25-29). Otherwise, circumcision only had national/physical significance (Romans 3:1-2; Genesis 17:12-14; Genesis 34:21-22). Circumcision was also a means in which the promise would be able to be traced back to Abraham (Matthew 1:1-17).
- In Judaism there were two types of proselytes: God-fearers, that are non-Jews who followed Yahweh but didn’t practice the Jewish customs, festivals, and rituals (Acts 10:22 — Cornelius; Acts 16:14 — Lydia; Acts 18:7 — Titius Justus); they had faith in the “promise” of the coming Messiah. There were also proselytes that were non-Jews who practiced all the customs, festivals, and rituals, but had faith in their righteousness not in the promise (Matthew 23:13-15,23-28). All “religious” actions done without transformative faith will lead to self-righteousness.

“Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest My wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds” (Jeremiah 4:4). “Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast

Worship: Psalm 18 — Citizens God Omniscient, God All Knowing — Matt Boswell

In Tenderness — The Sing Team **Closing Song:** Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me — The Gettys

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that HE UNDERSTANDS and KNOWS ME, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD. Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh....for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart” (Jeremiah 9:23-26).

Account Balance: \$34,401.59 November Balance: \$27,771.12	Weekly Budget: \$3,157
Total Giving: December 4	\$3,630
Total Giving: December 11	\$3,545
Total Giving: December 18	\$7,025
Total Giving: December 25	\$6,940

Announcements:

★**SUNDAY TEACHING CLASS:** We will be starting a new Sunday teaching class in 3 weeks, on January 22nd. This class will be an 8 week course entitled “A Biblical View of Prayer” and will be taught by Elder Zach. This class will be held every Sunday, for 8 weeks, at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up list on the back table for those who are interested in participating in this class!

★**CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a business meeting in 3 weeks, on Sunday, January 22nd, immediately following the worship service to discuss the 2023 Church Budget. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this important meeting!