

Stronger though we wait

Introduction

From Wednesday

- Studying the heroes of faith
- Looked at Sarah's faith believing God for the promise of a child
- Came across the text today
- Struck me how Abraham though he waited became stronger

Text

Rom 4:18-21 (ESV) *(18) In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." (19) He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. (20) No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, (21) fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*

Message

The impossibility of the problem

- See v19 - *He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.*
- Familiar with the story, but let me remind you - God had promised him he would be the father of many nations
- Made that promise when Abraham was 75
- Reiterated as Abraham grew older
- v19 - body as good as dead
- v19 - barrenness of Sarah's womb - she's 90
- **Point:** Faith begins where the natural ends!
- **Point:** Not positive confession, but confronting the impossibility head on!

The reality of doubt

- See **Rom 4:20 (ESV)** (20) *No doubt made him waver concerning the promise of God...*
- As we look at the natural circumstances, doubt is definitely a factor
- In fact, in the previous chapter when God reminded Abraham of the promise see **Gen 17:17 (ESV)** (17) *Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"*
- **Note:** Sarah gets the bad rap for laughing, but Abraham did too
- **Point:** We can't deny the doubt, but we can grow **stronger** while we wait!

The process he employed

- See **v20b** *He grew strong in his faith as he **gave glory to God...***
- This was the key to his victory in this long test of faith

For His promise

- Thanking God for what He has promised
- Know the word
- Meditate on the promises

For His person

Motive for us

- Promise of the day
- God loves us
- Not out to do anything except show us His love!
- **Rom 8:32 (ESV)** (32) *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Faithfulness

- **Lam 3:22-23 (ESV)** (22) *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; (23) they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*
- **Num 23:19 (ESV)** (19) *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken,*

and will he not fulfill it?

- **2 Thess 3:3 (ESV)** (3) *But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.*
- **2 Tim 2:13 (ESV)** (13) *if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself.*

For His power

- Nothing is impossible with God

For His past provision

- OT, making altars
- Look what the Lord has done
- Public testimony times!

The outcome he received

He grew stronger in his faith

- v20b says *He grew strong in his faith*
- v21 says he was *Fully convinced that God was able to do what He promised*
- **Note:** That's the essence of faith. God is able. And Abraham was fully convinced of that truth!
- See **Rom 4:18 (ESV)** (18) *In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."*
- **Point:** See **Rom 4:20** *No unbelief made him waver. He didn't waver. He didn't quit. He didn't give up!*

He received the promise for which he waited

- God kept his promise
- Abraham at the age of 100 became the father of Isaac
- **Point:** God will keep his word

He was declared righteous because of his faith

- See **Rom 4:22-25 (ESV)** (22) *That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." (23) But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, (24) but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, (25) who was delivered up for our*

trespasses and raised for our justification.

- Through faith he was declared righteous.
- We too are declared righteous for that same kind of faith!

Application

Salvation

- We hold to the promise of God's provision

In your situation

- Practice giving glory to God!