

**“Faith in the God of Abraham”**  
**Romans 4:17b-24**  
**January 24, 2021**

**I. Abraham’s God**

- A. Abraham’s God brings life from death.
- B. Abraham’s God *calls* into existence things that did not exist.

**II. Abraham’s Faith**

- A. Abraham believed God’s willingness to keep His promises.
- B. Abraham believed in God’s ability to keep His promises:

- 1. To bring life from death:
  - a. Life to his and Sarah’s dead reproductive abilities.
  - b. Even life to a potentially dead son!

*Hebrews 11:17–19 - <sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*

- 2. To call into existence nations descended from Abraham even though they did not yet exist.

- C. Though Abraham had occasional doubts and questions, his faith never was exchanged for rebellious unbelief.

**III. Abraham’s Faith and Its Results**

- A. Abraham was justified.
- B. God was glorified, with Abraham’s faith dramatically reversing mankind’s usual response to God!

*Romans 1:21 - For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**IV. Abraham’s Faith and Our Faith**

- A. We too place our faith in a God who raises the dead: Our Lord Jesus!
- B. By that faith, we too are counted righteous.
- C. By Abraham’s faith, we too are invited to believe the promises of a God who calls something from nothing and who brings life out of death:
  - 1. Like His promise to keep us in a state of justification.

2. Like His promise to bring us to a blameless state one day.
3. Like His promise to speak peace into our anxious hearts.

*Philippians 4:6-7* - <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

4. Like His promises of a victorious church, even when the church seems lifeless:

*Matthew 16:18b* - ...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

*Romans 16:20a* - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

*Ephesians 5:27* - so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

5. Like His promises of the ever-expanding influence of the Kingdom of God upon this dead world.

*Isaiah 9:7* - There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

*Mark 4:30-32* - <sup>30</sup> And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? <sup>31</sup> "It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade."