

Getting Started

- Last week's key point was ... *It has never been about works – It has always been about faith!*
If saving faith is not by works, discuss the role that works plays in the Christian life.
(Consider Ephesians 2:8-10 and James 2:14-24. What other passages come to mind?)

Pastor Lee, *"If you are going to be a Christ follower, live like it – be all in. You can only be saved by faith and do what God says every day by faith. If we really trust in Jesus we will follow Him. We will live like it. We will realize that Sunday is not enough. That just doing a couple of things we learned years ago is not enough."*

- How would you describe saving faith to someone who is not saved?

Discussion

The following passages reinforce Romans 4:16-25 ... Read Genesis 22:1-8, Hebrews 11:17-19, James 2:20-24

- In any relationship, what helps to bring a person to trust in someone else?
What do we know about God that should allow us to trust Him?
- What facts might have convinced Abraham that God's promise of a son through Sarah was impossible?
- How do you think Abraham was able to resist the temptation to doubt God's promise (*"He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith"*)?
What lesson does this offer us?
- How can you give "glory to God" in your current circumstances as Abraham did?
- God gives *"life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were"* (Romans 4:17).
What examples do you see of this in 4:18-25?

Optional:

In what ways does God give "life to the dead" ... Romans 8:13, Luke 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; 2 Corinthians 4:11-12, 16-18, Ephesians 2:4-5.

How does God call "things that are not as though they were" ... Romans 8:18-25, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10, Hebrews 10:35-11:2, 1 John 3:2-3

- Discuss this quote from John Stott and how it supports Romans 4:16-25.

Woody Allen epitomizes for many an inability to cope with the prospect of death. "It's not that I'm afraid to die", he quips; "I just don't want to be there when it happens". But nothingness and death are no problem for God. On the contrary, it is out of nothing that he created the universe and out of death that he raised Jesus. The creation and the resurrection were and remain the two major manifestations of the power of God.

- Based on today's message, how do you explain what James wrote in James 2:14-24 does not contradict what Paul wrote in Romans 4:16-25?
- Share at least one personal application from this study that you can put into practice in your life.

Prayer

Opportunities for corporate prayer this week ...

- 3rd Thursday Prayer Gathering this Thursday, April 18, 7pm in the Prayer Chapel.
- Good Friday Service, April 19 in the Auditorium

Future opportunities ...

- National Day of Prayer, Thursday May 2
 - Early Morning Prayer: 6:30 – 8:00am in the Prayer Chapel (come and go at any time)
 - Mid-day Prayer Noon – 1:00pm in the Prayer Chapel