

I AM ABRAHAM

Leaving a Legacy of Faith

Part Two: FIVE FALLACIES ABOUT FAITH

FIVE FALLACIES ABOUT FAITH

A. THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH

Ephesians 2:4–9

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

WHAT IS GOD'S GRACE?

Galatians 3:13–14

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Genesis 24:1

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

Isaiah 53:5

But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He* was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Galatians 3:14

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

B. THE FATHER OF THE FAITH**Genesis 12:7–20**

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent *with* Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South. ¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “Indeed I know that you *are* a woman of beautiful countenance. ¹² Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘*This is his wife*’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Please say you *are* my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may

live because of you.”¹⁴ So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful.¹⁵ The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house.¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.¹⁷ But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?¹⁹ Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take *her* and go your way.”²⁰ So Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

Genesis 20:1–11

And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.² Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, “Indeed you *are* a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she *is* a man’s wife.”⁴ But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?⁵ Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she, even she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this.”⁶ And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.⁷ Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he *is* a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who *are* yours.”⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.⁹ And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought

on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done.”¹⁰ Then Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?”¹¹ And Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife.

C. FIVE FALLACIES ABOUT FAITH

1. Not everyone has faith. It is a special gift. (1 Cor. 12:9 – 1 of 9 spiritual gifts)

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

2. It takes a person of great faith to do great things for God.

Luke 17:5–10

And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”⁶ So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”⁷ And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’?⁸ But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’?⁹ Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.¹⁰ So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’ ”

3. Faith comes by hearing the word of God.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Leviticus 5:1–3

‘If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and *is* a witness, whether he has seen or known of *the matter*—if he does not tell *it*, he bears guilt. ² ‘Or if a person touches any unclean thing, whether *it is* the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean livestock, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and he is unaware of it, he also shall be unclean and guilty. ³ Or if he touches human uncleanness—whatever uncleanness with which a man may be defiled, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes *it*, then he shall be guilty.

Leviticus 11:20–23

‘All flying insects that creep on *all fours shall be* an abomination to you. ²¹ Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on *all fours*: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. ²² These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. ²³ But all *other* flying insects which have four feet *shall be* an abomination to you.

Leviticus 13:1–4

And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: ² “When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body *like* a leprous sore, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. ³ The priest shall examine the sore on the skin of the

body; and if the hair on the sore has turned white, and the sore appears *to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a leprous sore*. Then the priest shall examine him, and pronounce him unclean. ⁴ But if the bright spot *is white on the skin of his body, and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and its hair has not turned white, then the priest shall isolate the one who has the sore seven days.*

The law not only does not build our faith -- it attacks it by putting the focus on us and our performance. **SO BACK TO ROMANS 10 AND WE WILL READ THE CONTEXT FULLY:**

Romans 10:11–17

For the Scripture says, *“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”* ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For *“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”* ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”* ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, *“LORD, who has believed our report?”* ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

4. Faith is the answer to fear.

1 John 4:17–19

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not

been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

EPHESIANS 2 - RICH IN MERCY BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE!

5. Faith grows as we focus on God.

Exodus 20:18–20

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

Ephesians 2:4–9

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.