

February 28, 2024 Sermon Notes

“Fully Persuaded” *Romans 4: 13-25*

*“Yet he [Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.” (21,22)*

**vv. 13-15** No one can receive God’s promise through perfectly keeping God’s perfect law.

**vv. 16, 17** God is fulfilling God’s promise to Abraham to make him “*a father of many nations*” through all the people following Abraham into faith.

**vv. 18-24** Abraham’s faith is based on the actual experience of trusting God for an heir, when biologically that seemed impossible. We are Abraham’s heirs when we trust God not just “in our heads” but with our physical lives, and God reckons as “*righteous*” before Him. (*Gen 15:6*)

**v. 25** The birth of God into our world as the person of Jesus Christ, His life and His death, and His resurrection are the historical basis for the forgiveness of our sins and the undeserved grace we receive to be God’s people.

### **How do you think of your “saving faith”?**

Is faith a continuum, like the daily pollen count, or is it a Yes/No like pregnancy?

Is faith like just making it onto the commuter train as the doors close and finishing putting on your makeup as you journey to your destination?

Is faith like a Green Card kept valid by being physically present in the U.S. every six months?

Does faith have to be renewed with fees every year like membership in a museum or Amazon?

Is faith like God’s steady WiFi but with our spotty reception, sometimes stronger or weaker?

**v. 22 *fully persuaded*** that God is able to do what he has promised. Not without fears or doubts, but sure that God is good and holy and powerful and will keep His promises in Christ Jesus.

**This faith leads to *peace with God, hope in our daily life, and God’s love poured into our hearts.* (Romans 5:1-5)**

### **Is this what you and I are experiencing?**

**What if it isn’t? Wishing it were true.** Waiting for a spot to open up on a college acceptance list. **Hoping we won’t get dragged in.** Staying quiet until we can get away and do what we want.

**What about everyone else?**