

FAITH IN GOD

Introduction – How many of you saw the beginning of the History channel series *The Bible*? So far, the theme has been the repeated call to trust in God. What is true biblical faith?

A. Abraham is our example of faith.

Romans 4:1-5

Romans 4:18-25

B. The message of Genesis is about Abraham's faith.

1. God called for Abraham to leave his country and people and go to an unseen land he would give to his numerous descendants. He promised to bless all people of the earth through him. (Genesis 11:31-12:5)
2. Abraham remained childless, yet he dared to believe God and it was credited to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:1-6)
3. Abraham and Sarah tried to create a family through Hagar on their own, but this backfired on them. God visited them in their old age and promised them a child within the year. (Genesis 18:9-15)
4. When the child of promise grew up, God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. (Genesis 22:1-14)

C. Abraham's faith was characterized by obedience to God.

James 2:14-24

Conclusion – Faith is not perfect conformity to God's will. Faith is not easy "believism" either. Real faith expresses itself in obedience, beginning with repentance and baptism. We are meant to grow in faith until our life is a message of faith to our peers like Abraham and Paul.

Galatians 2:20

(There will be no discussion groups this week. We will see the last video in the Dave Ramsey series on biblical finances.)