

ROMANS

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 4:13–25

THE FAMILY OF GOD

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Grace is the means through which the Kingdom comes into the world. Yes, this means the grace that God gives us that “while we were still sinners...,” but also the grace that we give one another that “while we were still sinners”!

In this passage Paul discusses the kind of faith that Abraham had as the forefather of the faith. God’s plan was to redeem the world and he would do it through a family. What is the trademark of that family? It is deep trust in the incomprehensible promises of God.

Often times it’s more difficult for us to believe that God will possibly judge the world rightly (evidenced in our frequent refusal to forgive one another) than it is to believe in bodily resurrection.

Saving faith is one that is quick to give out grace and forgive. A family that matches that characteristic is the family of God. It is a family that embodies the heart of its Father.

2.0 ROMANS 4:13–25

2.1 THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

In Genesis 15, God seals his promise to Abraham to give him both land and people. More specifically, he says that he will give Abraham (1) his own biological offspring (regardless of infertility and age), and (2) the nations of the world. Paul is making the argument that that promise is null and void if obedience to the law is required for the nations to be blessed through Abraham because it is impossible for anyone to completely fulfill the entire law.

2.2 ABRAHAM’S FAITH

Paul goes into detail on the kind of faith Abraham has. It is a faith that has hope against hope (i.e., supernaturally strong). This is the kind of faith that Christians are to have to be in the family of Abraham.

2.3 FAITH TO BE GENEROUS WITH GRACE

Often times it’s easier for us to have the faith to believe in the supernatural, than to have faith enough to excuse the inexcusable. We must believe that God will be just when we hand the unforgiveable over to him in forgiveness.

2.4 A FAMILY THAT FORGIVES

The family of Abraham—in the likeness of the father of that family—is a family that has strong faith, is hospitality, and forgives generously. We will face obstacles as a growing church, and it is imperative that we embody the Abrahamic family attributes. This means being hospitable as Abraham was, having big, strong faith, and being gracious with one another. The Kingdom of God is manifest through GRACE. This means that when we refuse to be gracious, the advancement of God’s Kingdom is set back.

3.0 CONCLUSION

1. **Grace.** The world is saved by grace through faith. This means that grace is the means through which healing and redemption comes into the world (e.g., the cross). We must be gracious with one another for God’s Kingdom to advance and for his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We must be gracious and forgiving of one another.
2. **Faith.** We don’t forgive because sins against us are inexcusable. We forgive because we trust that God is a better judge than we are. We forgive because we are forgiven. When we fail to forgive, we won’t be forgiven (see Matt 18:21–35).
3. **Hospitality.** Abraham was hospitable. He was an excellent host because he knew that he was hosting God himself. One of the most important ministries of the church is hospitality. It is imperative that we make others feel welcome in our presence because we are called to treat everyone as if they were Jesus himself.