

- For Them - Like For A Product You Buy!
- No - The Promises Of God:
 - Are Given Freely:
 - And Are Received & Accepted:
 - Once Again - By Faith Alone!
- 5. And - This Is What We Find This Morning:
 - In The Passage We Come To:
 - In The Book Of Romans:
 - So - Please Turn There With Me:
 - In Your Bibles - Romans 4!
 - Where - We Read These Words:
 - Concerning The Promise Of God:
 - 4:13-17 - "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. / For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: / Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. / Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, / (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were!"
 - Now - When It Comes To The Claims & Promises:
 - That You Hear When You Turn On The TV:
 - The Point Of Those Promises:
 - Is To Get You To Buy:
 - Whatever It Is They Are Selling!
 - Well - There Are Some:
 - Points To God's Promises:
 - As Well - Which We Will See In These Verses This Morning! 4 Of Them!
 - With The Main Point Being:
 - Not To Buy Something:
 - But To **Believe!**
 - And - That Is Why - Today:
 - Just Like In The Life Of Abraham & Sarah:
 - By Faith Alone - There Can Be:

1. ***A Sharing In The Promise Of God!***

- This Is What We Find Back In:
 - 4:13 - "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith!"
 - Now - Just What Is The Promise:
 - That God Made To Abraham & Sarah:
 - All The Way Back In The Book Of Beginnings? It Was:
 - An Encouraging Promise!
 - That He Should Be An "Heir!"
 - **IE:** How Would You Feel If You Got A Notice That Some Long-Lost Uncle Passed Away & Left You A Small Fortune - Because You Where His Only Heir! Not Only Would You Be Surprised - But You'd Be Elated! You'd Figure - All Of Your Financial Worries Are Over!
 - Well - An Inheritance In The Ancient World:
 - Was Rarely A Surprise!
 - It Was Something That You Could Expect:
 - Because Of A Relationship You Had Within Your Family!
 - And - As One Writer Described It:
 - Even - "Among The Jews, Possession By Inheritance Was Much More Secure And Permanent Than [Even] That Obtained By Purchase!"
 - So - You Can Imagine The Humble Delight Abraham Must Have Felt When God Made Him His Own Heir!
 - Even - "The Heir Of The World!"
 - **This** Was God's Promise!

- And So - We See That It Was Also:
- An Expansive Promise!
 - Even Though We Don't Find The Same Wording:
 - In God's Multi-Faceted Promise To Abraham:
 - In The Book Of Genesis:
 - This Was The Ultimate Effect Of Those Promises!
 - That Abraham Would Be:
 - The "Heir Of The World!"
 - What A Claim! What A Promise!
 - In Genesis 12:1-3 - We Find This Promise:
 - In Its Seed Form - When - "The LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: / And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: / And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed!"
 - So - It All Started When:
 - God Promised Him:
 - A Special Possession!
 - A Land That Would Encompass:
 - All Of The Land Known Today As Israel - And Even Beyond!
 - But - Even More:
 - God Promised Abraham:
 - A Special People!
 - A Family That Would Be As Numerous As "The Dust Of The Earth!" (Genesis 13:16)
 - And Then:
 - God Also Promised Him:
 - A Special Power!
 - That Through His Seed, He Would Exert An Influence - Not Just Over His Own Possession & His Own People - But Over All Of The World!
 - That "In Thee Shall All Families Of The Earth Be Blessed!"
 - And - All Of These Promises:
 - Were Made To Abraham By God:
 - Freely! He Demanded Nothing!
 - He Expected Nothing!
 - God - Out Of Nothing But His Own Grace:
 - Chose Abraham To Be The Means By Which He Would Restore:
 - That Which Was Lost To Us In Adam!
 - But - This Promise To Abraham:
 - Was Still:
 - An Exclusive Promise!
 - That Is - It Was Reserved For:
 - Abraham & His Seed:
 - Upon The Exclusive Condition:
 - Of Faith & Faith Alone!
 - 4:13 - "Through The Righteousness Of Faith!"
 - Now - This Does Not Mean:
 - That Faith *Is* Righteousness:
 - Or - Is A Righteous *Work!*
 - But - The Righteousness:
 - That Is Imputed To The Account:
 - Of Those Who Believe:
 - And - Not Any Righteousness Obtained "Through The Law!"
 - Paul's Theme Is Still:
 - Justification By Faith Alone!
 - But - To Be Considered:
 - In God's Promise To Abraham:
 - The Condition Is Still That Of Faith!

- And - When You Believe:
 - As Abraham Believed:
 - Then - Something Even More Exciting Takes Place:
 - **IE:** Than If You Received An Inheritance From That Long-Lost Uncle!
 - You Become A Part Of Abraham's Family! You Are Included As Part Of His Seed!
 - And You Too Now Share In The Promise Of God!
 - You Too Are An:
 - "Heir Of The World!"
 - This Is Also Described For Us:
 - In The Book Of Daniel - 7:27 - Where We Are Told That - "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him!"
- And - The Point Of God's Promise To Abraham:
 - So Long Ago:
 - Was So That It Would Be Shared:
 - By All Who Believe:
 - In The True God & His Promises!
 - Do You Have A Share:
 - In God's Promise To Abraham?
 - If You Believe In & Are Trusting In:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ As Your Savior - You Do!

* But - Another Point We Find - Is That - By Faith Alone - There Can Also Be:

2. A Stillness In The Promise Of God!

- Which Is What We Read Again In:
 - 4:14-15 - "For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: / Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression!"
 - When You Believe In God & His Promises:
 - You Can Experience The Rest & Stillness That Comes Through:
- The Way Of God:
 - Which Is - And Has Always Been - Of Faith!
 - Because - As We Are Told In 4:14:
 - Any Labor In The Law:
 - To Achieve The Promises Of God, And To Be His Heir:
 - Is Contrary To:
 - God's Way Of Faith!
 - And If You Could Receive God's Promises:
 - Based On Your Works:
 - Then It Makes "Faith" Null & Void!
 - **IE:** Like A Voided Check!
 - But God Also Offers Rest & Stillness:
 - That Comes Through:
- The Word Of God:
 - Which Is His Bond!
 - All That God Says Is So!
 - And So - We Are Also Told:
 - In 4:14 That:
 - Any Labor In The Law:
 - Is Also Opposed To:
 - God's Word Of Promise!
 - And If You Could Receive God's Promises:
 - Based On Your Works:
 - Then It Even Makes God's "Promise" Void And "Of None Effect!"
 - And That Is Why Faith Alone In God's Promises Is The Only Way To Experience Rest & Stillness From:
- The Wrath Of God!

- 4:15 - “For The Law Worketh Wrath!”
 - Whenever Someone Uses The Law Of God:
 - To Justify Themselves Before God:
 - It Will Actually Brings Them:
 - More Conviction:
 - Not Less!
 - More Condemnation:
 - Not Less!
 - And More Curse:
 - Not Less!
- Because - 4:15b - “Where No Law Is, There Is No Transgression!”
 - This Means - That For Those Who Think:
 - Their Works & Their Obedience To The Law Brings Them Into A Right Standing & Relationship With God:
 - They Would Have Been Better Off Without A Law!
- And - Not Only That:
 - There Is Only **One** Place - “Where No Law Is” - And That Is The Place Of Grace!
 - In Terms Of Your Relationship With God, The Law Never Enters The Picture!
 - This Means That - When You Are God’s Child - In Your Standing Before Him
 - It Is Not Possible For You To Transgress & Lose Your Salvation!
 - Remember What Jesus Said In John 10:28-29?
 - “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. / My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand!”
 - Now - There **Is** A Use & Place For God’s Law In Our Lives:
 - But - Not In Our Salvation & Justification Before God!
- And So - The Point Of God’s Promise:
 - To Abraham & You:
 - Is So That - When You Believe:
 - You Can Experience Stillness:
 - From Your Own Way & Your Own Works:
 - While You Rest In God’s Way & In God’s Work!
 - Do You Have This Rest & Stillness:
 - That Comes From Faith Alone:
 - In God & His Promises?
 - Even As William Ogden Once Wrote:
 - Listen To His Loving Words,
“Come Unto Me!”
Weary, Heavy-Laden, There Is Sweet Rest For Thee!
Trust In His Promises,
Faithful And Sure;
Lean Upon The Savior, And Thy Soul Is Secure!

* But - There’s Still Another Point We Find In 4:16-17a - And That Is - By Faith Alone - There Can Be:

3. ***A Security In The Promise Of God!***

- The Promise Made To Abraham & To All Of His Seed:
 - That You Will Be “The Heir Of The World!”
 - 4:16-17a - “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, / (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations!)”
 - You Can Experience Real Assurance:
 - Through Faith - Because:
- It Is An External Security!
 - That Is - External To Us!
 - It Rests - Not On Your Gain:
 - But On God’s Grace!
 - Because - “Unless We Are Saved By Grace, We Cannot Be Saved At All!”

(William Hendrickson)

- **IE:** "Safety In Numbers?" - Why? - Not Alone! Not Powerful Enough By Yourself!
 - Even So - You Can't Rely On Your Goodness - Romans 7:18 - "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing!"
 - You Must Rely On God & His Goodness!
- It Is Also An Extensive Security!
 - It Extends To **All** Of Abraham's Seed!
 - And - This Includes - **All Who Believe:**
 - As Abraham Did!
 - Whether Jew Or Gentile:
 - Or - Any Other Superficial Differences!
- **IE:** "Father" - In The Bible - Does Not Only Mean:
 - The Head Of A Family:
 - But Also - The Head Of Any Group Of People With Something In Common!
 - In Genesis 4 - There Were Some Men Who Were Called Fathers - But In A Different Way:
 - Like Jabal:
 - Who Was "The Father Of Such As Dwell In Tents!"
 - And - Like His Brother Jubal:
 - Who Was "The Father Of All Such As Handle The Harp And Organ!"
- This Means That - You Don't Need To:
 - Look Like Abraham:
 - To Be Certain Of God's Promise!
- Neither Do You Need To:
 - Talk Like Abraham:
 - Or - Live Like Abraham:
 - As A Nomad - Or Even:
 - Be Traced Back To Abraham!
- No - All You Need To Possess:
 - Is The Faith Of Abraham!
 - Because - This Is What Indicates That You **Are** The Seed & The Family:
 - That Was Promised By God:
 - To Abraham!
- And Now - His Promise:
 - Is Your Promise:
 - Because - 4:16 - He Is The "Father Of Us All" - Who Believe!
- And So - The Point Of God's Promise:
 - Is So That When You Believe - As Abraham Believed:
 - You Too Can Experience The Security & Certainty:
 - That God Will Keep His Promise:
 - To You & Through You!
- Do You Have This Assurance?
 - If & When You Believe In Jesus Christ:
 - His Life & Death & Resurrection:
 - For You - Then - You Can Be Sure!
- Because The Performance Of God's Promises:
 - Do Not Rest In Your Hands:
 - But In God's!
 - You Can Be Sure!
 - Even As The Apostle John Wrote:
 - In 1 John 5:13 - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!"
- You See - Your Security Rests In God's Sovereignty!
 - It Was God Who "Made" Abraham:
 - A Father Of Many Nations!
 - And - It Was God Who Included You:
 - If You Are Believe:
 - As Part Of Abraham's Family!

- But Then - We Find One More Point To God's Promise In 4:17b - And That Is - By Faith Alone - There Can Be:

4. A Sight Of The Promise Of God!

- In The Hymn - "In The Sweet By And By" - Sanford Bennett:

- Penned These Words:

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there!

- In The Last Part Of 4:17 - Paul Explains:

- How Christians Can "See" The Promise Of God:

- From "Afar!" - It's By Faith:

- In The Omnipotent & Omniscient God! All-Powerful! All-Knowing!

- 4:16b - 17b - Take Out Parenthesis - "Abraham - Who Is The Father Of Us All - Before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were!"

- A Christian Can See The Promise Of God:

- Because It Is:

- Based On The Omnipotence Of God!

- In 4:17 - Paul Describes Some Of God's "Specialties!"

- **IE:** Like A Doctor Becoming A Specialist - Something He Will Be Known For - There Are Some Special Things God Is Known For & Reveals His Mighty Power! Including:

- His Power To Revive!

- He Is The God:

- "Who Quickeneth The Dead!"

- **IE:** Dead - Deceased / Decayed / Dry / Completely Devoid Of Life / "Valley Of Dry Bones!" (Ezekiel)

- Yet - God Alone Has The Power:

- To Make Alive!

- Isn't This:

- What He Did:

- To Keep His Promise:

- To Abraham - In His Flesh?

- In 4:19 - Get To Next Week - "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb!"

- But - What God Did For Abraham & Sarah:

- Became A Type & An Example:

- Of What God Would Do:

- On The Third Day:

- When He Raised Up His Only Begotten Son:

- From The Dead!

- Quickening Is God's Specialty!

- And - Isn't This:

- What God Does For All:

- Who Put Their Faith In His Risen Son, Jesus Christ?

- In Ephesians 2 We Are Told:

- "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) / And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus! / That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. / For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: / Not of works, lest any man should boast!"

- And - By Faith In The Omnipotence Of God:

- You Can See The Fulfilment Of God's Promise:

- Even From Afar!

- But - It Is Also:

- Based On The Omniscience Of God!

- Another One Of God's Specialties Is That He:

- 4:17c - "Calleth those things which be not as though they were!"

- Now - Even Though This Can Refer To God's Power To Create:
 - It Can Also Be Taken Another Way:
 - And Refer To God's Omniscience!
- God Knows Everything!
 - God Knows The End From The Beginning!
 - And So - As We Read From 4:16 & 17:
 - God Could Call Abraham A Father Before He Ever Was One!
 - Because - Before God:
 - He Already Was One!
 - God "Calleth Those Things Which Do Not Exist As Though They Do Exist!"
 - And So - God:
 - Not Only *Knew* Abraham:
 - To Be A Father - But:
 - He *Treated* Him As One As Well!
- And So - Abraham Believed God:
 - And Was Able To See The Fulfilment:
 - Of God's Promise To Him:
 - By Faith!
 - "By Faith [He] Could See It Afar!"
 - This Doesn't Mean:
 - That The Power Belonged:
 - To Abraham & His Spiritual Vision & Faith!
 - No - It Was The Power Of God & His Faithfulness That Made His Promises Clear To Abraham!
- And - As It Was True For Abraham:
 - It Is Also True For His Seed - For All Believers:
 - In Christ!
 - As God Called Abraham:
 - A Father - When He Was Not Yet:
 - A Father!
 - So God Calls Christians:
 - Righteous - Even Though We Are Not Yet:
 - Righteous - In Our Actions!
 - But - In Christ:
 - God *Sees* You So:
 - And - *Calls* You So!
 - And - By His Sanctifying Power:
 - Will One Day - *Make* It So!
- And This Too Is The Point Of God's Promise!
 - So That You Can - Like Abraham:
 - "By Faith . . . See It Afar!"
 - Do You See God's Promises:
 - As Fulfilled - In Your Life?
 - Listen To What Else Hebrews 11:
 - Tells Us About Abraham & His Faith:
 - Hebrews 11:9-10 - "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: / For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God!"

Conclusion:

1. All This Was & Is The Point:
 - Of God's Promise To Abraham:
 - "That He Should Be The Heir Of The World!" (4:13)
 - But - When You Come To Christ:
 - In The Same Way As Abraham:
 - By Faith & Faith Alone!
2. Then - His Promise:

- Is Your Promise!
 - And - You Too Can Have:
 - The Same Share & Stillness & Security & Even Sight:
 - Of The Gracious Promises Of God!

3. So Now:

- As We Will Sing In Just A Moment:
 - Keep Standing On The Promises Of God!
 - Including The Promise Of Jesus:
 - In Matthew 5:5 - When He Said:
 - “Blessed Are The Meek: For They Shall Inherit The Earth!”
- Is That Promise Your Promise?

* Do You Have A Share In God’s Promise To Abraham? Are You Part Of His Family Of Faith?

* In Your Own Heart, Are You Experiencing The Stillness & The Security Of God And His Promises?

* Are You Looking For The Coming Of Christ & The Fulfilment Of His Promise - That You Will Be “The Heir Of The World?”

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