

Main Idea: When **God gives saving faith to undeserving and helpless sinners, it produces fruit in their lives.**

Introduction: Adam's children's need for Abrahamic faith. Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

1. Faith that results from grace

Joshua 24:2 tells us where Abraham came from, not only physically but spiritually. Before this chapter, he was serving other gods. So, what happens in Genesis 12:4-9 isn't just good. It's literally miraculous. Faith like this doesn't come from the heart of a lost idolater. It takes divine power.

Of course, that's another problem. Sinners don't deserve for divine power to help them. Sinners deserve for divine power to destroy them. That's grace. A completely undeserved and impossible turnaround. Blessing for someone who deserves only curse. Spiritual life for someone who only has death from himself.

Do you need faith? Spiritual life? Look to Christ for it, and live!

2. Faith that responds with obedience

But v4-9 tell us that Abram obeyed Yahweh's words. It was grace that produced obedience. As v5 implies, there would have been a lot of logistics involved in Abram's move. But, the primary thing v4 tells us is that the move was "as Yahweh had spoken to him." God grant us the grace to have our choices ruled instantly, completely by His Word.

How do you obey God's Word? Instantly? Completely? Resolutely? This was how Christ obeyed in your place. This is Christ's agenda for your life.

3. Faith that resists conformity

That he was in Canaan but not of Canaan. It was grace that strengthened Abram to resist the pressure to be like the world around him. He even targets "the oak of the teacher" in v6. The Canaanites were then in the land, and at a place that would have been important to their religion, Abram sets up an altar and worships Yahweh. God grant us the grace to serve Him in exactly those parts of life where the world around us offends Him most.

To which world do you belong? What are your strongest desires? What are your highest joys? Are you more concerned to live before the face of God, or to save face in front of unbelievers?

4. Faith that returns worship.

That worship was suddenly his top priority. It was grace that made worship Abram's top priority. What did Abram do in Shechem? A lot of things, but the only one that v7 tells us about is that he worships in response to God's promise of something impossible—that the seed of a man who has no seed will inherit the land. What did Abram do between Bethel and Ai? Obviously much more than just "pitch a tent," but the only thing that v8 tells us is that he worships. The main thing in Abram's life has become worship. God grant us the grace to make worshipping Him the main thing in our life, regardless of what all the other things are.

Would your day look different if worship was your highest priority? Would your week look different? Your Lord's Day?

Conclusion: faith is faith in Christ. "Abraham saw My [Christ's] day and was glad."