

Faith Dissected
Pastor John Carmichael

Romans 4:13-25 NASB

Romans 4:17 Just as it has been written, "A father of many nations I have established you before whom he believed, God, giving life to the dead, and calling things not being, as being; 18 who against hope on hope believed, for him to become the faith of many nations according to that having been spoken, So will be the offspring of you. 19 And not having become weak in faith, he already took note of his own body having become dead, being about a hundred years old and the deadness of the womb of Sarah, 20 but in the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief but was filled with power in faith having given glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He is also able to manufacture. 22 And therefore it was concluded to him in righteousness. 23 It was not written but on account of him only, that it was concluded to him, 24 but also on account of us, to whom it is about to be credited to those believing on the [one] having aroused Jesus, our Lord, from the dead, 25 who was handed over for the trespasses of us and was aroused for the acquittal of us. (John Carmichael translation of Romans 4:17-25, for reference purposes only.)

- **Hagin: saved by faith, healed by faith, wisdom by faith, clothes by faith, just shall live by faith, and Hebrews says faith in God is foundation of Christianity.**
- **Many do not know how to walk in faith or what it looks like.**
- **The darkness of delay, disappointment, and the demonic can hinder us from seeing and moving forward in faith.**
- Since God first gave him the promise, Abraham saw famine (12:10), family issues (12:10-20), Lot taken captive and battle with enemies (14). Not to mention it was years with no baby!
- Abraham learned to see in the dark in Genesis 15. It was likely in the darkness of the AM before the sun comes out and the stars are still visible. God through a vision, gives Abraham vision (stars of the sky = promise fulfilled.)
- When Abraham learns to see in the dark, he does not become flawless, but he becomes faithful.
- Abraham is our example of walking by faith. [Rom 4:22-25 NASB95] 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 [He] who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.
- We are going to dissect faith to find out how it works.

What does faith look like?

In Romans 4, we find six elements of what faith looks like.

- I. Faith is about, focused upon and directed toward God/Jesus!**
 - a. [Rom 4:17 NASB95] 17 (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, [even] God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.
 - b. Dead to life.
 - c. Calls into being... ex nihilio (out of nothing)
- II. Faith challenges the natural even in the impossible.**
 - a. [Rom 4:18 NASB95] 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

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- b. No natural grounds of hope.
- c. Challenges the natural.

III. Faith is not weakened by time or circumstances.

- a. [Rom 4:19 NASB95] 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;
- b. Not close eyed, but undaunted by facts.

IV. Faith is directed toward what God has promised in the Bible.

- a. [Rom 4:20-21 NASB95] 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.
- b. Abraham was not flawless but faithful.
- c. What did God say? That is what we believe and direct our faith towards.

V. Faith connects to God.

- a. [Rom 4:22 NASB95] 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- b. [Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

VI. Faith is a lifestyle.

- a. [Rom 4:23-25 NASB95] 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 [He] who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.
- b. [Rom 1:17 NASB95] 17 For in it [the] righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS [man] SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
- c. [Gal 3:11 NASB95] 11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
- d. [Heb 10:38 NASB95] 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

- What are you seeing through eyes of faith happening in your life that God has promised you?