

## DO NOT WAVER

Hebrews 10: 23, ***“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”*** Romans 4:20, ***“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.”***

There are times in our lives when we waver. But when we do we have a solid rock we can stand on; and that is, the promises of God. Paul brought out the character of Abraham’s faith in this verse. He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through (by) unbelief. There is a double contrast in Abraham’s faith: (1) He did not doubt God’s promise, and (2) God strengthened his faith. The word “waver” means divided. Sometimes we translate this word as doubt (James 1:6). Doubt is a divided mind, a dialoguing mind, a mind that vacillates between faith and uncertainty. Abraham did not doubt God’s promise. He did not waver at the seeming impossibility of having a child by Sarah in his 100th year and her 90th year. He did not permit unbelief to judge God’s promise. The nature of faith is to trust God.

Abraham was empowered (Greek is passive) by faith in God’s words. His faith derived from God. It was not Abraham’s faith per se that gave him strength; it was the God of his faith that gave him strength. Faith can grow stronger. Faith is the proper answer to God’s promises. Abraham acknowledged the manifestation of God’s capacity to do what He said He was going to do. He was fully confident in God’s power. Ultimately, we stand in a dependent relationship to God. Our faith glorifies God because it asserts His trustworthy attributes. Note: It is the God of our faith, not our faith per se, that gives us powerful faith. We never glorify God apart from faith. Since God can never change His mind, we can count on Him.

He does not promise one thing one day and the reverse of it the next day. Wistful hope is not faith. Truth faith is taking God at His word. Faith is no vague notion. Genuine faith holds to God's promises regardless of circumstance. It is God, not faith, that gives us strong faith. We have nothing except the commitments of God toward us. That is why we should develop faith as an ongoing attitude. This brings us into close fellowship with the Lord. Many Christians vacillate between faith and doubt. When things go well, they trust God. When things go badly, they doubt Him. Everyone struggles with his or her faith, but a struggling faith is not the same as doubt. Weak faith capitulates to doubt. Testing will prove how strong our faith is.

Verse 21, ***“And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”***

The idea of “fully convinced” is wholly certain. Abraham was convinced fully in what God was able to do. Abraham was fully settled in his mind about this. No doubt his faith was tested as he and Sarah grew older. The word “fully” leaves no room for doubt. Our confident faith rests solely on the unembellished Word of God. There is a naked element to our faith. We cannot adequately believe God without believing the Bible. God's promise to Abraham was an unconditional promise, a free promise given by God without solicitation. The Greek indicates that God made the promise at some point in the past of Abraham's life and continued the promise on a permanent basis (perfect tense). “Promise” is a recurring theme in Romans 4 (verses 13, 14, 16, 20). The verb “promised” occurs in this verse. The unconditional promise to Abraham is a promise of unadulterated grace. The only condition to receive grace is faith grounded in God's commitment to us.

If we believe the Bible, there is no question about the ability of God. Since He is omnipotent, all potent, He is able to fulfil His promises to us. This idea rests at the basis of our faith in Him. This is unqualified faith in God's ability. Note: Our faith is in the assurance that we know a God who promises unconditional grace to us. When we have assurance in God's promises, we glorify His name. We then have complete conviction that God will do what He promises. True faith always has this assurance. Christians are completely sure of what God commits to them. God saves us, not because of our faith but because of His grace, His promise. True faith simply receives His promise. This is trust in God's character and work for us.

The reason Christians can have assurance in God's promises is because it does not rely on self or circumstance but on God Himself. Faith grounded in self is weak faith. Faith grounded in the character of God is strong faith. God is faithful to us. All of this requires significant knowledge of God's Word.

*Genesis 18: 14, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." Ephesians 3: 20, "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."*

Verse 22, ***And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."***

Paul now drew a conclusion to his whole argument from this section of Romans. The "therefore" here is conclusion; it is an inference that is self-evident. The reason God credited to Abraham righteousness was his trust in God's words. Faith was the human condition for salvation.

This sentence is another exact quote from Genesis 15:6. Paul came full circle and returned to this quotation from 4:3. God declared that Abraham stood right before Him forever. There was no merit in Abraham because God declaring him right in His eyes was by faith, not works. Note: When we operate on grace, we refuse to draw on our own resources. We can insert nothing between the Promiser and our receiving the promise. We trust the Promiser as a faithful provider of grace. We open our empty hands to receive what He gives. We throw ourselves entirely into God's hands. We look to God's resources. We cannot receive salvation or live the Christian life by self-effort. Therefore, if you are wavering it's because you are trying to do everything in your own strength! Throw yourself into His deep river of life and trust His promises!