

THE PROMISE SECURED BY FAITH

ROMANS 4:13-25



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A SERMON BY

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The Promise Secured by Faith

A Gospel Reflection on Romans 4:13-25

Every believer needs certainty.

We live in a world filled with uncertainty. Circumstances change. Plans unravel. Health declines. Economies fluctuate. Even our own hearts can be unsettled by fears and doubts. In such a world, the Christian finds comfort in a glorious truth: God's promises are certain because they rest upon God's grace.

Romans 4:13-25 takes us to the very heart of the Gospel. In this passage, the Apostle Paul reminds us that salvation has never been earned through human effort. From Abraham to the present day, God's people have been justified by faith alone in the promises of God.

Abraham stands as a powerful example of saving faith. God promised that he would become the father of many nations and that through his offspring the nations of the earth would be blessed. Yet when God made these promises, there was no visible evidence that they would

come to pass. Abraham and Sarah were advanced in age. Humanly speaking, the situation appeared impossible.

Nevertheless, Abraham believed.

Paul tells us that the promise did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. Long before the Law of Moses was given, God declared Abraham righteous because he trusted God's Word. The promise rested entirely upon divine grace.

This truth remains vital for us today.

If salvation depended upon our performance, our confidence would constantly rise and fall with our successes and failures. We would never possess lasting assurance. God's standard is perfect holiness, and none of us can attain that standard through our own efforts.

The law serves an important purpose. It reveals God's holiness and exposes our sinfulness. It shows us our need for a Savior. Yet the law was never intended to be the foundation of our justification. Salvation rests upon God's grace and is received through faith.

That is why Paul declares that the promise depends on faith, so that it may rest on grace and be guaranteed.

What a comforting word: guaranteed.

The security of our salvation is not grounded in the strength of our grip on God, but in the faithfulness of His grip on us. Grace provides certainty because grace depends upon God's character rather than our achievements. The God who made the promise is the God who fulfills the promise.

Paul describes Him as the One who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. He is the Creator who spoke light into darkness. He is the Lord who breathes life into dry bones. He is the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

Nothing is beyond His power.

Abraham understood this. He looked honestly at his circumstances, yet he regarded God's promise as more certain than what his eyes could see. His faith was not blind optimism. It was confident trust in the character of God.

The same principle applies to believers today.

Faith does not ignore reality. Faith looks beyond present circumstances and rests in the promises of God. When trials come, faith remembers that God is faithful. When burdens grow

heavy, faith remembers that God is sovereign. When questions arise, faith remembers that God always keeps His Word.

The more Abraham reflected upon God's faithfulness, the stronger his confidence became. He grew strong in faith because he gave glory to God.

Ultimately, Abraham's story points us to Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us that the declaration, "it was counted to him as righteousness," was written not only for Abraham's benefit but for ours as well. The same God whom Abraham trusted is the God we trust today.

Abraham looked forward to God's promised redemption.

We look back to its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The Gospel is beautifully summarized in Romans 4:25: "who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

Jesus Christ willingly went to the cross for our sins. He bore the judgment we deserved. He satisfied the righteous demands of God's justice. Then, on the third day, He rose victorious from the grave.

The resurrection stands as God's public declaration that Christ's sacrifice was accepted and that salvation has been accomplished. Because Jesus lives, all who trust in Him are justified before God and reconciled to Him forever.

What encouragement this brings to the believer.

When circumstances seem overwhelming, God's promises remain certain.

When doubts arise in us, God's character remains trustworthy.

When guilt accuses us, Christ's finished work remains sufficient.

The same God who called Abraham, fulfilled His covenant promises, and raised Jesus from the dead remains faithful today. His grace is sufficient. His promises are secure. His salvation is certain.

Therefore, let us fix our eyes upon Christ and trust Him fully. For all who believe in Him will discover that the promise secured by faith is a promise that can never fail.

Jason Boothe serves as Pastor of Redeemer Church of Piketon, Ohio. He proclaims the Free and Sovereign Grace of God in the salvation of sinners each week. For more information concerning Redeemer Church or the Gospel, please visit www.RedeemerPiketon.org.