

Sunday December 11, 2022

Faith in God's Promise (Part I)

Doctrines of Grace (TULIP)

¹Total Depravity (Radical Corruption); ²Unconditional (Sovereign Election); ³Limited (Definite) Atonement.

⁴Irresistible Grace (Effectual Call); ⁵Perseverance (Preservation) of the Saints

Luke 1: 46-55 (Focus Passage)

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, ⁴⁷And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

⁴⁸" For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations shall count me blessed.

⁴⁹" For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

⁵⁰"AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

⁵¹" He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.

⁵² "He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

⁵³ "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

⁵⁴ "He has given help to Israel His servant, **In remembrance of His mercy,**

⁵⁵As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and His descendants forever."

Genesis 15: 1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abraham in a vision, saying,

"Do not fear Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

²Abram said,

"O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³And Abram said,

"Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."

⁴Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him saying,

"This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."

⁵And He took him outside and said,

"Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them."

And He said to him,

"So shall your descendants be."

⁶Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:1

¹What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? **“ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

Romans 4:16-23

¹⁶For this reason it is **by faith**, in order that it might be in **accordance with grace**, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the **faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷(as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”)...

¹⁹Without 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; ²⁰yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waiver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. ²²Therefore **IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS**. ²³Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, ²⁴but 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.**

(Review) Catechism Q/A 64

Q: Since faith alone makes us partakers of Christ and His benefits, **from where does this faith come?**

A: From the Holy Spirit, who kindles it in our hearts by the preaching of the gospel, and other ordinances, and confirms it by the use of the sacraments.

LBC Chapter 14: Of Saving Faith

Article 1 of 3: The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word; by which also, and by the administration of baptism and the Lord’s supper, prayer, and other means appointed by God, it is increased and strengthened.

(2Corinthians 4:13; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:14,17; Luke 17:5; 1 Peter 2:2; Acts 20:32)

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we would walk in them.