**“The Right Kind of Faith!”**

**(Romans 4:18-25)**

**As we face the uncertainties, opportunities and trials of life, it is**

**important to have a strong faith in God. Abraham is a model of the kind of faith that God wants to see in our lives. Today we will learn more from his example of faith as we consider…**

 **I. The CHALLENGES of Faith (18-19)**

* **The UN seen (18a)** – “Who against hope believed in hope…”
* **The UN likely (18b)** – “that he might become the father of many

 nations”

* **The UN popular (18c)** – “to that which was spoken, So shall thy

 seed be.”

* **The UN realistic (19a)** – “not weak in faith…his own body dead,

100yrs old”

* **The UN achievable (19b) – “**neither yet the deadness of Sarah's

 womb”

 **II. The CHARACTER of Faith (20-22)**

* **A Continuing Faith (20a)**

 “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief…”

* **A Compliant Faith (20b)**

 “…but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”

* **A Confident Faith (21-22)**

 **“**And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was

 able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for

 righteousness.”

**III.** **The CONTENT of Faith (23-25)**

* **The Way of Salvation (23-24)**

 “Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to

 him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on

 him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;”

* **The Work of Salvation (25)**

 “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our

 justification.”

**“The Right Kind of Faith!”**

**(Romans 4:18-25)**

**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**1. Share something from Sunday’s sermon that was the most**

 **interesting or challenging to you, or that raised a question.**

**2. Read and discuss Romans 4:18-19.   Why did Abraham’s situation**

 **seem impossible?  What are some situations we may face that**

 **seem impossible or very difficult at first?**

**3. Read and discuss Romans 4:20-21.  What are some key phrases in**

 **these two verses that describe Abraham’s faith?  Why is Abraham’s**

 **faith described so favorably here, even though he did have times of**

 **doubt in his life?  (Genesis 12:10-13; 15:3; 16:1-4; 17:17-18).**

 **What can learn from Abraham’s experience?**

**4. Do you believe that you are growing strong in faith?  Why or why**

 **not?   What are some keys to growing strong in faith?**

**5. Read and discuss Romans 4:23-25.  Why does Paul emphasize**

 **Christ’s resurrection here?  How important is the resurrection**

 **to your personal faith? Why?**

**Small Group Prayer Time**

 **Share something for which God wants you to trust Him and**

 **exercise faith.  Pray for one another to be strong in faith.**

**Digging Deeper**

**1. Compare and contrast the times that Jesus rebukes people for**

 **being weak in faith (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8) with the**

 **times He commends people for being strong in faith (Matthew**

 **8:10; 15:28; 21:21).  How does your faith measure up, weak or**

 **strong?  What steps will you take to grow in faith?**

**2. Paul emphasizes Christ’s resurrection in Romans 4:24-25 and**

 **elsewhere in Romans.  Jot down why Christ’s resurrection is**

 **important according to Romans 1:4; 6:4-10 and 10:9-10.**