

**Monday, 25 September 2017** Romans 4:13, 16-17

*For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.... That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.*

The promise came to Abraham and to us through faith—through belief (conviction) in the grace of the LORD, God the Almighty. It was many years later that he received the seal of circumcision. That seal, like the seal of baptism, certified to the world that he was the recipient of God's grace.

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**Tuesday, 26 September 2017** Romans 4:18-19

*In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.*

Can you imagine the behind the back snickers from Abraham's servants when he announced that he and Sarah were about to become parents? And they waited many years before the birth of Issac. Isn't this akin to the ridicule that many of us experience when we first announced that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and as we live it out? The world is not quick to accept evidence of transformation.

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**Wednesday, 27 September 2017** Romans 4:20-22

*No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”*

Abraham grew strong in the face of unbelief. The source of his strength—giving glory to the LORD, God the Almighty. A

few stubbed toes along the way, Ishmael for example, but recovery and back on the road leading to the promise that he would be the father of many nations through Sarah.

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**Thursday, 28 September 2017** Romans 4:23-25

*But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

The message here is not to depend upon my strength, my witness, my obedience but to praise God for His grace, mercy, and love. *“Let the praise of God be ever in my mouth and a two-edged sword in my hands.” Psalm 149:6* Praise God that our Lord Jesus Christ has been resurrected, that He was the sacrifice for our sins and raised to the right hand of the Father to intercede for us.

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**Friday, 29 September 2017** Romans 6:8-11

*Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died, he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

If I believe, and I do, that I have died with Christ, then I **must** believe/trust/commit/obey/have faith that I do live with Him, **and** I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. He is **Lord** and **Savior**.

Considering myself as dead to sin is focusing on the part of the process of committing and obeying. It requires my active participation. Not to earn my salvation but for my walk along Sanctification Avenue.

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**Saturday, 30 September 2017** Romans 6:12-14

*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion*

**over you, since you are not under law but under grace.**

This passage explodes with action and participation. Do not allow sin to have any sway over my life in any aspect, but do present myself to God as one who is alive and seeking to live as an instrument for righteousness.

Keep in mind that an instrument has no will of its own; it must be directed and used by someone with a purpose. I am God's instrument for righteousness. Hallelujah.

The last sentence is comforting—sin no longer has any dominion over me—I have been saved by grace.

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**Lord's Day, 1 October 2017 Psalm 119:161**

*Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.*

It is not princes that persecute me so much as the multiplicity of technological lures that serve as irresistible distractions. How do I keep my mind on Your word as I read when it keeps flitting to the inner workings of the computer, software problems, and fixes, etc. Help me, keep my mind directed towards You and Your great sacrifice for me. Here, I have just finished reading of Your great and glorious work on the Cross and find my mind drifting to how the paging works on my computer. Help me, Lord, help me in my unbelief.

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or to

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Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.

## VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*September 25-October 1, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Timothy 1:3-7**

*I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

We thank our Lord, as we constantly lift each other in prayer. We are thankful that we can join together as the [congregation] to carry on the Gospel as proclaimed by our forefathers and according to Your Word.

*Thank You that we are constantly reminded by the faith of men like Patrick, Columbanus, Brendan and so many others whose commitment to You transcended their fears. May we also not be consumed by a spirit of timidity, but by that spirit of power, love and self-discipline that is the hallmark of lives lived in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now.  
Amen*

*Creational Theology hint for the week--Psalms 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. A beautiful fall day in New England with trees changing, low 80s, gentle breeze; one of the easy ones to rejoice and be glad in. But the day will soon come with the leaves to be raked and a raw, wind driven rain in the high 30s. May a word of complaint not escape from my mouth, but only words of gladness and rejoicing in His goodness and care for His creation.*