

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-  
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Romans 4:16-25 “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, 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 (as it is written, ‘I have made you a father of many nations’) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and *being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.* And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

**Quote:** “Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, But is blessed if we trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” J. Sammis

**B**efore God had actually given Abraham a son, he was regarded as righteous because of his *faith in God*. Abraham demonstrated belief in the promises concerning Christ. God told seventy-five-year-old Abram, “‘...Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*’ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him.”<sup>1</sup> Nearly eleven years passed since that initial promise. “Then (God) brought him outside and

said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to “number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ *And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*”<sup>2</sup> Like everyone, other than Christ Himself, Abram’s faith was not perfect. He listened to the scheme of Sarai, his wife, and took his servant, Hagar, as a wife. Their union produced Ishmael who was not the son of promise. Thirteen long years after Ishmael’s birth, God again spoke to Abram at age ninety-nine and told him that Sarai would be the mother of the promised son. He said that Abram (“exalted father”) would now be called Abraham (“father of many nations”). Isaac was born just as God had promised.

Years later, Abraham demonstrated complete trust in God by obeying the command to offer up Isaac. “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”<sup>3</sup> He received Isaac from the dead in a figurative sense because he and Sarah conceived Isaac beyond their child-bearing years. God considered Abraham’s initiation of that command as obedience. As he lifted his knife to sacrifice Isaac, the angel of the Lord called from heaven, “Do not lay

**Trust and Obey:  
“Workless Faith is  
Worthless Faith”<sup>4</sup>**

your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Imagine Abraham’s thoughts during the three-day journey to Mount Moriah and the turmoil of soul he endured as he and Isaac climbed the mountain and prepared the altar! Think of him explaining to his son that God would provide a lamb and what it must have been like to raise the knife and look into Isaac’s eyes! As with Abraham, it is during our most difficult trials that we best show forth our complete trust in God Who is our Savior and our Sovereign.

<sup>1</sup> Gen.12:1-3 <sup>2</sup> Gen.15:5, 6 <sup>3</sup> Heb.11:17-19 <sup>4</sup> W. Wiersbe