

**WORDS OF GRACE SEASONED WITH SALT**  
***Bible Studies, Personal Opinions About Current And Future Events***  
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## **Abraham and the Church**

**Romans 4:1-3: What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

**Galatians 3:29: And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Abraham is one of the key characters in the Bible. His name appears 311 times in the Bible. He was from the Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 15:7) which is located at the foot of the Euphrates River south of Babylon in modern day Iraq. It is very close to what we call Kuwait.

After God gave the gentiles up because of idolatry at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11, God called him to leave his country, his kinfolk and his father and go into the land of Canaan where he would make him a great nation and multiply his seed and promised to bless those who blessed his seed. Gen. 12 says:

- 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:**
- 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:**
- 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Jesus Christ and every writer in the Old and New Testament was the seed of Abraham. Every New Testament writer, except Jude, mentions him in their epistles. Paul mentions him 29 times in his epistles. He wrote more about Abraham than any New Testament writer. He uses him as an example to us today. Many church doctrines in Paul's epistles are based upon the promises God made to Abraham. To try and separate Abraham from the church is like trying to drive a car without tires. You can't do it.

We are forever linked together with Abraham. As a matter of fact he is our father according to Romans 4:11 and we are his children according to Galatians 3:29.

### **The Faith of Abraham**

First read Genesis 15:1-8: **After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward.**

**And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus?**

**And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.**

**And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.**

**And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.**

Now read Romans 4

**1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?**

**2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.**

**3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

**18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.**

**19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:**

**20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

**21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

**22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

Romans 4 verses 1-3 says he believed God and verses 18-22 tell us the condition he and his wife were in when he believed God. If you know what he believed, you will see how strong his faith was and why God singles out his faith. When God made this promise to him, Romans 4:19 says that he and his wife's body were dead in the sense of being unable to have children. He and his wife were past the age of child bearing. They were too old to have children. But yet, it says he did not stagger at the promise of God, he was strong in faith, who against hope believed in hope that he

might be the father of many nations. He believed God for the impossible. It was impossible for him to have children, yet he still believed God would quicken his body to give him the supernatural ability to have children and that they would become as the stars of heaven for number.

This gives us an idea of what true faith is.

It's believing God for the impossible.

It is believing God will do the impossible.

Its believing that God will do for you what is impossible for you to do.

It is believing God will do what you are incapable of doing.

God did not make this promise to Abraham when he was a young man, for it does not take faith to have children when you are young. God waited until Abraham became too old to have children to make this promise to him. God waited until it was humanly impossible for Abraham to have children before he made this promise to him. This is why it says his faith was strong. It took a strong faith to believe he would have children when his body and Sarah's body were dead and unable to have children. It would be like God appearing to someone who is 100 years old today and telling them you are going to have a child.

This also tells us something else about faith.

\*Faith reaches out into the unseen world where God lives.

\*Faith sees what the eye cannot see and it hears what the ear cannot hear and it feels what the hand cannot touch.

\*Faith reaches out into the spiritual realm that cannot be seen with the eye, or heard with the ear, or touched with the human hand.

This is why faith does not make sense to most people. Most people live in the world of sight and feeling. If they can't see it, hear it, touch it, they don't believe it. Sad to say, many Christians live in that world. They believe God to save them from sin and hell, but they never take another step of faith in their lives. They never get beyond the salvation experience. They can tell you how they trusted Christ by faith to save them, but that is the extent of their faith. They have saving faith, but not living faith. They get stuck in the world of sight and feeling. If they can't see it or feel it, they don't believe it. Many Christians believe that God has saved them from sin and hell, but they won't even trust him to pay a water bill when they are broke.

This is one of the problems with hyper dispensationalists. (Notice I said hyper) If you listen to them, God has gone into retirement or into

hibernation and that the heavens are shut down and gone out of business. As far as they are concerned, the heavens are silent today. Their unbelief ties the hands of God and they never step out by faith to attempt anything out of the ordinary for God. They say: why ask God to do the impossible for he does not hear those kinds of prayers today? He does not do those kinds of things today. One hyper dispensationalist preacher even says, we should not ask God for the impossible or for material or physical blessings today for all our blessings are spiritual. (The truth is many physical blessing are spiritual. Read 1 Cor.10:3-4)

That is why there are so few missionaries among extreme dispensationalists. It takes faith in God to do the impossible to be a Bible believing missionary. But, many hyper dispensationalists don't really believe God can or will do the impossible today. And yet that is what faith is. It is believing God will do what you cannot do. It is believing God to do the impossible like Abraham did.

Christians should not have a problem believing God will do the impossible today if they believe in the second coming of Christ. If you believe in the second coming of Christ, you believe God does the impossible. Here is why I say this. Do you believe that you will leave this earth and be caught up to meet the Lord in the air when he comes again? How will you get there? By plane, rocket, or helicopter? No. We are going to be caught up in these bodies without any mechanical device or propulsion. Do you really believe you will actually fly into space without a rocket, airplane or helicopter? Isn't that impossible? Yes. Isn't that a miracle? Yes. If you believe this, why can't you believe and trust the Lord for anything else?

People say; well we have got to use our common sense about things today. We can't get carried away. We can't go overboard with this "faith thing". When my wife and I went to Illinois in 1970 to start a church we were promised \$25 a week. Common sense told us not to go. Common sense told us that you can't live on \$25 a week. Common sense was wrong.

When God told Abraham that he and his wife would have children, common sense told him he was too old to have children. If he would have believed his quote; "common sense" he would have never believed God and we would have never heard of Abraham. But, he believed God would do something that was out of the realm of common sense. Common sense told him it was impossible, but he ignored what his senses told him and

believed God in spite of the over whelming odds against him.

**It says he did not consider the deadness of his body.**

Many times when you step out by faith and attempt things for the Lord, you must ignore what your body tells you. Abraham's body told him he could not have children. The doctor may have told him the same thing. Science and his neighbors and friends may have told him the same thing. The thoughts of his mind told him the same thing. But God said he would have children. He chose to believe God and ignore what he could see and feel and even his own thoughts.

Have you ever stepped out by faith to attempt something for the Lord that your physical senses said you can't do? Have you ever stepped out by faith to give money to a Bible believing ministry that preached the gospel and doctrines of grace that your pocket book said; you don't have that kind of money to give? Many times in the life of faith you must ignore what you see and feel and even the thoughts that come into your mind. Abraham is proof of that.

### **The Example of Abraham**

**Romans 4:3: For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

**Verses 23-25: 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;**

**Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**

In this chapter, Abraham is our example of saving faith. According to Romans 4:23-25 what was written about Abraham concerning righteousness and justification was not for his sake only, but for us also. In Abraham we see how we can be justified and made righteous. God justifies sinners today the same way he justified Abraham in Genesis 15. Abraham is the example for us to follow when it comes to being justified by faith.

**Abraham was justified by believing what God said to him about his seed.** (Gen.15:5)

**We are justified by believing what God said to us about His Son.**

**Verses 24-25: If we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**

***Abraham was justified without the law.***

***We are justified without the law.***

Romans 3:28 says: **Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

Abraham is proof of Paul's statement in Romans 3:28, for he was justified over 400 years **before** the law was given to Moses, therefore he was not justified by keeping the law. (See Gal.3:17-18) Abraham lived before the law was given to Moses, therefore he could not keep what did not exist.

Our justification cannot be attributed to the law either, for the law was abolished nearly 2000 years before we were justified. (See Eph.2:14)

Abraham was justified 400 years before the law came into existence. We are justified nearly 2000 years after the law was abolished. We are like Abraham and he is like us. Neither one of us can claim we were justified by keeping the law.

***Abraham was justified without works.*** (See Rom.4:2)

***We are justified without works.***

Romans 4:5 says: **But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**

When Abraham was justified in Genesis 15 he did not get baptized, take the sacraments, join the church, keep the law, observe holy days, or offer a sacrifice. He didn't move a muscle. All he did was to believe what God said. God made a promise to him, Abraham believed it and God pronounced him righteous on the spot, and called him his friend from that day forward. That is exactly how God justifies sinners today.

***Abraham was justified as an uncircumcised Gentile.*** (See Rom. 4:9-10)

***We are justified as uncircumcised Gentiles.***

Romans 4:11 says: **And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:**

Abraham did not become a circumcised Jew until Genesis 17:11 some 15 years after he was justified in Genesis 15. Therefore, he was justified as a Gentile. What does this mean to us? It means God can and will justify us even though we are uncircumcised Gentiles and strangers from the covenants of promise. What he did for Abraham as an uncircumcised Gentile in Genesis 15, he is doing today in this age of grace. This is part of the mystery in Ephesians 3:6.

***Abraham was justified without becoming a Jew.***

***We are justified without becoming a Jew.***

The 12 sons who made up the 12 tribes of Israel were not born to Abraham, but to Jacob in Genesis 29-30, many years after Abraham was justified in Genesis 15. When Abraham was justified he was not a Jew or a member of the commonwealth of Israel. Also, to be a member of the commonwealth of Israel a man had to be circumcised, but he was justified 15 years before he was circumcised. He was justified as an uncircumcised Gentile outside of the commonwealth of Israel.

What does that mean to us? It means God will justify us even though we are uncircumcised gentiles and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. (See Ephesians 2:11-13)

***Abraham was declared righteous the moment he believed.*** (Gen. 15:6)

He was justified and declared righteous on the spot by the Lord himself. Abraham had a present tense salvation. His salvation was not a reward gained in the future by a life time of religious works. It was a present possession given to him as a gift by believing the promise of God.

***We are justified and declared righteous at the same time also; the moment we believe.***

Romans 5:9-11: **Much more then, being now justified by his blood,** we shall be saved from wrath through him.

**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,** much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

**And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**

We are not only justified the same way Abraham was, but at the same time; the moment we believed what God said to us about his Son. Our salvation is like Abraham's; a present possession not a future attainment.

***Abraham was justified by believing what God would do for him in the future.***

***We are justified by believing what God did for us in the past.***

Verse 24-25 says, ***Christ was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.***

Every person justified today is justified as Abraham. The message we believe is different, but the principal is the same; faith alone without works.

## **The Blessing of Abraham**

**Genesis 22:18:** And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

*Galatians 3:8-9: And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

In Genesis 22:18, God made a promise to bless all nations, but it does not tell us what the blessing is. But in Galatians 3:8 Paul tells us what the blessing is. The blessing he promised is that he would justify the heathen by faith.

The blessing of Abraham that came on the Gentiles in Galatians 3:14 is justification by faith according to verse 8. That blessing was promised to Abraham in Genesis 22:18 and it came to pass under the ministry of Paul. Paul was sent to preach the blessing that God promised Abraham in Genesis 22:18; that God would justify heathen gentiles by faith. In his epistles and especially Romans and Galatians, Paul fully explains the blessing that God promised Abraham in Genesis 22:18. The blessing is called the gospel in verse 8. It was the gospel of the uncircumcision that Paul preached (Gal. 2:7) and it is based upon the blessing that God promised Abraham in Genesis 22:18; that he would one day justify uncircumcised heathen gentiles through Christ by faith.

## **The Seed of Abraham**

In Genesis 22:18, God promised to bless the nations through the seed of Abraham, but it does not tell us who the seed is, what the blessing is, who the nations are, or how the seed would bless the nations. But Galatians 3 explains it all. Verse 16 tells us that the seed is Christ. Verse 8 tells us the blessing is justification by faith. Verse 8 tells us that the nations are heathen gentiles. Verse 13 tells us the way that the seed would justify the heathen is by dying for their sins thereby releasing them from the curse of the law that cursed both Jew and gentile alike.

Paul explains the promise of Genesis 22:18 better than anyone in the Bible for he is the one who was chosen to preach justification by faith to uncircumcised heathen gentiles who were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. This was the gospel of the uncircumcision he preached and it was based upon the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 22:18.

## **The Children of Abraham**

**Galatians 3:7: Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

**Galatians 3:29: And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

In Christ, we become the seed or children of Abraham. It's not because we became Jewish proselytes or because we blessed Abraham's seed. Verse 29 plainly says we are the seed of Abraham because we are in Christ. We are in Christ because we were baptized by the Spirit into Christ according to Gal. 3:27.

All believers in both testaments are counted as the children of Abraham. (See Rom. 4:11-12) He has a physical seed or children through Isaac. They are the Old Testament saints. He has a spiritual seed or children through Christ. They are the New Testament saints and they include gentiles as well as Jews.

## **The Promise and Promises of Abraham**

**Galatians 3:29: And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

**Galatians 3:16: Now to Abraham and his seed were the promiseS made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

These verses show us why God made us the children of Abraham. Being the seed and children of Abraham made us heirs to the promise and promises God made to him and his seed.

### **The promise**

The promise in verse 29 is the promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 22:18 that he would justify the heathen by faith according to verse 8. In Genesis 22:18 God made the promise to Abraham that through his seed he would bless the nations. That seed was Christ, the blessing is justification by faith and the nations are heathen gentiles like us. To partake of that promise you must be of the seed of Abraham. God put us in Christ and in Christ we become his seed and that makes us heirs to the promise he made in Genesis 22:18. That is why it is spiritual insanity to try and divorce the church from Abraham and the promise God made to him and his seed. You can't be justified or made righteous unless you are the seed

of Abraham. That is why God put us in Christ to make us the seed of Abraham. Being his seed we became the heirs of the promise of justification and righteousness God promised the seed of Abraham. (See Romans 4:11)

### **The promises**

Being the seed of Abraham not only made us heirs to the promise, but the *promises* plural he made to his seed. They are plural, because it involved many things; earthly blessings to the literal children of Abraham in the land of Canaan and spiritual and heavenly blessings to his spiritual children. In the spiritual seed there is no distinction of Jew or *Greek*.

### **The promises of the spiritual seed of Abraham.**

**Romans 15:27 says: It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.**

God made us gentiles partakers of Israel's spiritual things. The spiritual things of Israel are the promises God made to the seed of Abraham in Galatians 3:16. Here is a partial list of the spiritual promises.

**The Gospel of Christ**  
**Christ living in us and we in him**  
**Hope of resurrection**  
**God our Father**  
**Inheritance in the Kingdom of God**  
**The indwelling Spirit of God**  
**Justification by faith**  
**Righteousness by faith**  
**Citizenship in the heavenly city New Jerusalem**  
**Freedom from the law**  
**A New nature**  
**A New Birth**  
**A divine Great High Priest**  
**All sufficient, once for all sacrifice for sin**  
**A divine heavenly mediator**  
**An eternal heavenly intercessor**  
**A heavenly hope**  
**A heavenly temple**  
**A divine mercy seat and propitiation**  
**A divine spiritual altar**

**Divine Spiritual understanding  
Eternal salvation  
Eternal redemption  
A heavenly calling  
A throne of mercy and grace  
Reconciliation for sin  
Spiritual blessings  
Heavenly citizenship  
Peace of God  
The grace of God  
Adoption as children  
Habitation of God  
Light and salvation  
Spiritual circumcision**

All of these promises have three things in common. (1) They are all spiritual. (2) They are all church blessings we now enjoy. (3) They were all originally promised to the seed of Abraham and Israel in the Old Testament. This is why Paul quotes the Old Testament nearly 200 times in his epistles and why he based church doctrine on the scriptures of the Prophets.

## **The Second Justification of Abraham**

### **James 2**

**20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?**

**21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?**

**22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?**

**23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.**

**24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**

Romans 4:1-3 says that Abraham was justified by faith, but these verses say he was justified by works. Is this a contradiction? No, for they are two different events in his life. He was justified two times. In Romans 4 Paul wrote of Abraham in Genesis 15, whereas James wrote about Abraham in Genesis 22. These are two different events and times in Abraham's life.

(Compare Gen. 15:5-6 with Gen. 22:1-18)

### **There are two types of justification in the Bible.**

In Romans 4:2 Paul says Abraham was not justified by works BEFORE GOD. In Genesis 15 he was justified by faith before God, but in Genesis 22

he was justified by works BEFORE MEN. Justification does not always have to do with salvation. For example, Jesus was justified. 1 Timothy 3:16 says: **And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

This verse says that Jesus was justified. Jesus Christ is the sinless Son of God, so in what way was Jesus justified? The word justified in this verse means approved, vindicated, right, and blameless. The Spirit of God is witness to the fact that Jesus was justified, right, blameless, approved and vindicated in everything he said and did throughout his ministry. Every claim made by Christ to his deity and sinless life, was vindicated by the Spirit of God. It was the Spirit of God who came upon Christ to work miracles and the miracles proved he was the Son of God. When Christ was baptized, the Spirit of God came upon him to announce to the world that he was the Son of God and was truly sent by God. He was declared to be the Son of God by the Spirit when he raised him from the dead. Throughout his public ministry the Spirit of God was manifest in the life and work and preaching of Jesus Christ. He was filled with the Spirit, the Spirit was upon him, he was led of the Spirit, spoke by the Spirit and worked miracles by the Spirit of God. The Spirit vindicated and justified Christ throughout his time on earth and continues to do so today.

Romans 3:4 even says that God is justified: **Let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.**

When dumb men judge God or his word God is always vindicated and proven right and justified in what he does and in what he wrote.

James uses the word justified the same way it is used in Romans 3:4 and 1 Timothy 3:16. In Genesis 15, Abraham was justified before God by faith. In Genesis 22, he was justified by works before men. His faith in Genesis 15 was verified, approved, and vindicated in Genesis 22 when he was willing to offer up his only son as a sacrifice.

His faith was put to the supreme test in Genesis 22, for Isaac was the promised seed. Isaac was the seed God promised Abraham in Genesis 15 through whom his seed would multiply and become as the stars of heaven for number. But in Genesis 22, God told him to kill the promised seed! And the fact that he was willing to offer up the promised seed as a sacrifice

proves beyond a doubt that his faith in Genesis 15 was real and genuine. He believed that even if he killed him, God would raise him because of the promise he made to him about his seed. (See Hebrews 11:17-19) His works in Genesis 22 in offering up Isaac verified and vindicated his faith. It proved that it was a very strong and living faith. This agrees with what James says in this chapter, that faith without works is dead. We know Abraham's faith was not dead, it was proven to be alive by his works in Genesis 22 when he did not withhold his only son, but had every intention of slaying him. This is how he was justified by faith and works. Justified by faith before God and justified by works before men. The whole world knows his faith in Genesis 15 is real by his works in Genesis 22.

In the same way, we are justified by faith and works. We are justified by faith before God when we believe the gospel. We are justified before men by the works we do and the sacrifices we make after we are saved. When people see our works, they are convinced that our faith and conversion is real. Our works after conversion verify and vindicate our faith. If there are no works that men can see in our life, then our faith may be a dead faith for true saving faith is verified by works like Christ's works were verified by the Spirit and like Abraham works were verified.

The works Abraham did in Genesis 22 did not save him; he was already saved in Genesis 15. His works proves he was saved and justified. His works vindicated him and validated his faith was real which is what James 2 is all about. The works we do today do not save us. The works we do prove we are saved.

Paul said the same thing as James in Galatians 5:6:

**For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.**

The word *availeth* means power, strength and might. In Christ Jesus being a circumcised Jew who keeps the law is of no avail when it comes to being justified. In Christ Jesus being a very moral upright gentile is of no avail when it comes to being justified. In Christ Jesus the only thing that avails or has power and strength to justify is faith, but not just an intellectual faith to facts. But faith that WORKETH by love. The faith that avails today is the faith which WORKETH by love. James said faith without works is dead and Paul said the faith that avails is faith that worketh by love. Works do not justify us, but works is the true measure of our faith.

When writing to the Thessalonians Paul said in 1:3 that he remembered without ceasing their **work of faith** and labour of love. Not just their faith, but their work of faith. And what were the works their faith produced? He said in verse 8-10:

**For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.**

**For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;**

**And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

This is the works their faith produced that convinced Paul they were true believers. Their works did not save them, no more than Abraham's works in Genesis 22 saved him. But they validated and proved that the faith they had was real. Let's put it this way: If you were put on trial for being a Christian would your works convict you or acquit you? Think about it.

## **Additional facts about Abraham**

### **Abraham is the root of the good olive tree**

Romans 11:16-17: **For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;**

Abraham is the root of the olive tree for he is the father of us all. See Romans 4:11

The fatness of the tree is the spiritual blessings God promised to the seed of Abraham. See Romans 15:27

The branches broken off were unbelieving Jews. The branches who remained in the tree were the Jews who believed on Christ called the election of grace in Romans 11:5. The wild olive branches grafted into the tree with the Jewish branches are gentile believers like us.

### **Abraham is the ideal family man**

Genesis 18:17-19: ***And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.***

He had great influence over the members of his family. They followed his faith and his works. They were like him and the Lord commended him for the good influence he had over his children and household.

### **Abraham was called the friend of God**

Isaiah 41:8: **But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.**

James 2:22-23: ***Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.***

Abraham loved God and showed himself friendly to God, he trusted in God and believed every word of God; and complied with the will of God, and persuaded his children after him to do likewise.

In John 15:14-15 Jesus said to us: ***Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.***

\*\*\*\* The promises God made to the physical seed of Abraham we cannot claim. See Lev. 26:3-10, Isa. 54:17, Psa.91:11-15, Psa. 103:3, Deut. 8:18

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**WHSL Butler, Alabama at 9 AM**

**Sunday Mornings, 60 minutes.**

**WSHO 800 AM is live streaming. You can listen to their broadcasts anywhere on the planet. If you have a computer, push the listen now button on their web site at 8:45 AM CST.**

**Pastor Art Watkins  
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Pay us a visit at Coden Bible Church. We are located in south Mobile County in Alabama. Our web site has a map that will take you to our front door. Our Sunday School meets at 10 AM and our preaching service is at 10:45 AM. We have a Sunday night service at 6 PM and Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible study at 6 PM. Yall come.