

Can I trust him, can I be trusted ?

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Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

“And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

We need to pay attention to the background of this first reading.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Reading this passage we find that God's Promise to Abraham is God's third promise.

1. The first promise was that God would give land to Abraham's descendants. Towards that promise Abraham believed and then built an altar to God (Genesis 12: 7).

2. The second promise was that God would give him offspring, as many as the stars in the sky (Genesis 15: 5). Towards that promise Abraham dared to believe and God counted it as truth (Genesis 15: 6).

3. God's third promise was that God would make Abraham the father of a great nation, then many children and his wife Sarah would become the mother of the nations. Against this promise Abraham first bowed to worship (Genesis 17: 3) and still dared to believe.

God promised offspring through Sarah's womb.

Romans 4:13-25;

“For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be the heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, so 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. 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. 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.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but 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.”

Explanation about this passage

Romans 4:13-25;

Explain God's election or promise to Abraham not based on the law, but based on Abraham's faith and trust in God.

The Apostle Paul's explanation of the events of Abraham's faith became an example and brought blessings to his descendants. This is the truth of that faith and it is the grace from God. Abraham trusted God Paul to confirm our faith in God who raised Jesus Christ, our Lord. Just as the faith of Abraham was reckoned by God as righteousness, so too is our faith.

Mark 8:31-38

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the

things of man.” And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels”

Mark 8:31-38 ESV

Explanation about this passage

Mark 8: 31-38

Jesus' hope when teaching people about His suffering, death, and resurrection to the crowds and the disciples was that they would believe in Him. In verse 37 it is stated that they would not be ashamed because of such words and teaching. Even more emphatically so that the people, especially the disciples, believe in each of His teachings and His life choices.

But Peter's reaction seemed to represent the reaction of the disciples who were unwilling and unable to accept such teaching. They were not prepared to experience the same thing that Jesus would have if Jesus suffered so much and was killed. More precisely, they chose not to believe in these teachings, because they were afraid of losing their lives, fearing to suffer, and fearing death. If a student does not believe in the teaching of a teacher, it also shows that the student does not believe or is ashamed of the Teacher.

The Lord Jesus hopes that we will not be ashamed but dare to believe and have faith in Him who was suffering, died, but who rose from the dead.

Brothers and sisters!

Faith and belief are often synonymous with words Meaning the same. But just believing cannot be interpreted by faith. Someone who believes in friends does not necessarily have faith in friends. Faith is something that is not just believing but believing in something that is not yet seen, something that does not make sense, something that is hard to believe.

In faith, there is a confession of belief not only by mouth but also by heart. This attitude was introduced to us by Abraham, the psalmist, and the apostle Paul, in they believed and trusted God.

An attitude like this is called faith, which is having the determination and confidence in God who called and sent them. The hope is that we will finally have the determination to believe too. For this reason, it takes courage to believe, namely the determination to face whatever is deemed to hinder this belief. Not afraid, not afraid, and not discouraged.

This attitude is also what Jesus asked for the disciples and for us today. Even though we have to face suffering, hardship, adversity, and death, we still want to have the courage to believe and have faith in God.

The term “believers” we wear, is not just our decisions and choices, but also God's grace to us.

The question: Can I trust him, can I be trusted?

Can I trust Him?

Yes, because :

1. His promise is eternal.
2. His promise never fails
3. his promise was proven from Abraham to Jesus to his people Today

In the midst of a pandemic or post-corona pandemic, which urges life to death, we are reminded and strengthened to dare to believe in God in Jesus Christ.

Dare to believe does not come from ourselves, nor just believe in God and become disciples of Jesus.

we hear a sentence say that we are brave because we are right and afraid because we are wrong, then let us proclaim that we are brave because we believe and not be ashamed because we believe.

Dare to believe even though suffering is a reality that can be found in everyday life.

Can I be trusted?

Yes,

Because:

1. I give my life to Jesus
2. I surrender
3. I give them control of my whole life to Him

As Jesus said :

“If anyone would come after me,

- let him deny himself and
- take up his cross and
- follow me.