

Message Three

Walking in the Steps of Abraham's Faith

(2)

**Living in Fellowship with God
and
Believing in and Experiencing God
as the One Who Calls Things Not Being as Being**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 4:17; Gen. 12:1-2; 15:1-6; 18:14; 20:17; 21:1-3, 33; 22:1-19

I. Abraham lived in fellowship with God—Gen. 18:

- A. He communed with God on a human level, enjoying sweet fellowship with God.
- B. The God of Abraham is the God of human friendship; God conversed with Abraham as with a human friend—2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; James 2:23; Gen. 18:17.
- C. In his fellowship with God, Abraham received the revelation from God regarding the birth of Isaac and the destruction of Sodom.

II. Throughout his whole life, Abraham learned one lesson—that God is the Father—Eph. 3:14-15:

- A. God did a special work on Abraham in order to show him what it means for God to be the Father—4:6.
- B. To know God as the Father is to know that He is the source, the unique Initiator, and that everything originates from Him—Matt. 15:13; 14:19, 22-23.
- C. The basic lesson that Abraham had to learn was to know that God is the One who initiates everything—John 5:17, 19-20a, 30; 7:16-17; 8:28; 17:4.
- D. We all need to see that God is the Father and that everything proceeds from Him—1 Cor. 8:6a; Matt. 16:17; Eph. 1:17; 3:14-16; Col. 1:12; 1 Thes. 1:1.

III. When Isaac was born, Abraham believed in and experienced God as the One who calls things not being as being—Rom. 4:17-21:

- A. God promised to make of Abraham a great nation—the kingdom of God, composed of the nation of Israel as God's kingdom in the Old Testament, the church as God's kingdom in the New Testament, the millennial kingdom in the coming age, and the new heaven and new earth for eternity—Gen. 12:1-2; Matt. 21:43; 16:18-19a; Rom. 14:17; Rev. 11:15; 22:5.
- B. In Genesis 15 God came in to show Abraham that he needed God's grace inwardly for the fulfillment of God's purpose, which is to have a people to express God with His image, represent Him with His dominion, and possess the earth—1:26-28:
 - 1. Only that which God worked into Abraham could bring forth from Abraham the required seed—15:3-4.
 - 2. Abraham believed that God was able to work something into him to bring forth from Abraham the required seed—v. 6.
- C. In Genesis 16 Abraham exercised his flesh, his natural strength, to produce Ishmael—a serious offense against God and His economy.

- D. In Genesis 17 God charged Abraham to cut off his flesh, to terminate his natural strength, so that God could come in and bring forth Isaac by His grace for the fulfillment of His purpose.
- E. Abraham interceded for Abimelech's need in spite of his own failure and the fact that Sarah was still barren—20:7a, 17.
- F. The birth of Isaac was the coming of Jehovah, which was the coming of grace—18:14; 21:1-3; John 1:17:
 - 1. Isaac was born by the strength of God's grace, not by the strength of man's natural life.
 - 2. The birth of Isaac took place after Abraham was circumcised and after he and Sarah had become completely deadened—Rom. 4:18-19.