

The Way of Faith

By Arthur Eggers

PREFACE

REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest:** Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation – abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

Note: *Definitions of references pulled from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

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"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. {before him: or, like unto him} 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. 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: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 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."
[Rom.4:17-25]

I believe these verses, speaking of Abraham, are some of the best definitions of the way of faith.

"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were." [Rom.4:17]

First, we need to understand that Abraham, just like all of us, made his share of mistakes. None of them are recorded in the New Testament because God saw that Abraham believed Him as the God who quickeneth ("made alive") the dead, and "*calleth those things which be not as though they were*". This is what we are to do if we are to live by faith.

"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." [Rom.4:18]

Even though he never saw the promises with his physical eyes, God gave Abraham a hope that was put into operation when he believed in the promises. Hope is always in the future tense and it becomes present tense when we believe and then we can rejoice in the hope. One promise was that he would be the father of many nations and another promise was that God would give him and his seed a land. "*In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the RIVER OF EGYPT unto the great river, the river Euphrates*" [Gen.15:18]. These same promises were given to Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob; they never saw them either. "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth*" [Heb.11:13]. God has given us promises that we will never see with natural eyes or understand with our minds but we lay hold on them by faith because it is God's word (see 1Co.2:9-10).

"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." [Rom.4:19]

In this we learn that we don't consider our own ability but only the ability of the almighty God who is able to keep His word regardless of the conditions. Through eyes of faith we look at the things that are not seen; we see even as God sees things that we cannot see with our natural eyes.

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God."
[Rom.4:20]

Abraham stood steadfast on God's Word regardless of what others thought in unbelief. He refused to budge from his faith, his strength was in the faith that God had given him. He had not a thing to boast of in himself; it is all of God. Have we learned this yet?

"And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." [Rom.4:21]

It is God's ability on which we stand, *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work"* [2Co.9:8]. Always remember that all things that are in God's plan and His promises will come to pass. Abraham's seed will have the land that he saw afar off, but not the land that Abraham saw with his eyes. The land will all be changed according to Isaiah:

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.." [Isa.40:4-5]

Since the land is changed, the people will enjoy their new land because it will meet all their needs:

"They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted." [Isa.49:10-11]

"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee." [Isa.54:10]

"But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be." [Zec.14:7-8]

There are more scriptures (study Isa.41:18-20, Isa.43:19, and Eze.47:1-12). So as the land for Israel will not be the same as Abraham had seen with his eyes, so will our promises be as we look at them today. We must see them through the eyes of faith.

"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." [Rom.4:23-24]

Oh, this is for me too! I can live in the same realm of faith. Through faith, which is given to us, God lays upon us the promises which had been paid for by the death of His Son. As we read the Bible, the Word of God works in our hearts to believe. God's work was finished at the cross. He did it all and we are waiting for His work to be revealed in us when we see Jesus. This is the work of faith.

"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." [Rom.4:25]

Oh, what a positive verse! Jesus Christ was delivered to death because of the conduct of our human Adamic life; because of our offenses. The human race can now be made "just" because of His resurrection. Simple faith in the work of our Lord at the cross and the power that raised Him from the dead justifies a person.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." [Rom.10:9-10]

The Old Testament saints were justified by looking forward to the coming Redeemer. We are justified by looking backward to the One, Jesus Christ, who died for us.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." [Rom.5:1]

Because we are justified by the blood of God's Son we are brought into fellowship with the almighty and we can come boldly into His presence as sons at any time. What a blessing.

"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all." [Rom.4:16]

It doesn't matter whether we are Jews or Gentiles, male or female, rich or poor, we must come to God by faith.

Have you made God's promise sure in your life
by faith in the Lord Jesus?

Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart right now!

Jesus Loves You!!!

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