

Saints,

I received this little devotion from WELS Evangelism.

Enjoy

Pastor P

Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. - Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the Lord. He had heard God's word and trusted God's promises. The Apostle Paul described Abram's faith this way: "Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." (Romans 4:19-21)

God credited that faith to Abram as righteousness. The word "righteousness" is a status of being right with God. It is the status of meeting God's requirement for eternal life which is to be perfect, to be without sin.

However, Abram had not obeyed perfectly the holy will of God. He had not always lived up to the perfection that God requires (remember Pharaoh and the "she's just my sister" deception?). But Abram, while still a sinner, believed God; he trusted God's promise of a coming Savior. And God declared, "This man is not guilty." Abram's faith in the coming Savior saved him.

Faith saves. God says, "Not guilty!" The heavenly Judge makes this verdict because Jesus came to be our substitute. God charged Jesus with the sins of the world and declared him guilty for all of our sins. Jesus bore the punishment that sinners deserve. Since Jesus paid the debt of every sin, God has declared all of us not guilty. Our account before God is marked "paid in full" and signed with the blood of Jesus. And God credits the righteousness of Jesus to us, so that by faith we are right with God.

As believers, our hearts are comforted with the awesome truth that God has forgiven the guilt of our sin. Therefore, we know that we are standing before God with joy and confidence that we will live with him in glory forever.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I praise you for the perfect status that I have before you by faith in Jesus my Savior. Strengthen me through the promises that you give me in your word. With the assurance of your forgiveness, fill my heart with peace. Amen.