

Faith Christian Fellowship
February 26, 2017
The Way of Faith
4: Blessed of the Most High God

TEXT: Romans 4:11-12, 16 / Genesis 14:14-24

As the people of God, everything we have is extended to us by God's grace. We take hold of those gifts by faith. Abraham is our example. We are following the way of faith of father Abraham

The Lord spoke that we need to build our faith this year and gave some interesting instructions. We have followed Abraham's departure from Ur and Haran, leaving idols behind. We saw that it is important to stay where God puts you even if it's tough, and to line up with what He told you, and you will see more of the vision. Last week, Barry emphasized the importance of seeking His presence. Today we move on to the responsibilities of handling blessing in Chapter 14.

1) Reminder: Faith has three basic components:

- a) Heart content - keep your heart / feed the heart / Matt 12:34
...for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
- b) Tongue - out of the abundance / no man can tame 8 / two springs: James 3:2-15
- c) Actions – no dead faith = James 2:26
- d) We can exercise our will successfully in heart keeping and actions. Tongue, not so much. Have we spent too much energy trying to control the uncontrollable?

2) The covenant of blessing

- a) The eternal high priest is the arbiter of our covenant. We have such a high priest after this same order: Heb 5:6-10, 6:20, 7:11,17, 21
- b) The Most High God who owns Heaven and earth is in a two way covenant with Abram – KJV Gal 3:9. Blessed with faithful Abraham
 - i) Galatians 3:9 NLT So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.
 - ii) Galatians 3:9 MSG So those now who live by faith are blessed along with Abraham, who lived by faith--this is no new doctrine!
- c) The Most High God is blessed by Abram. Praise in response to His victory over our enemies is our part.

3) Faithful Abraham on money:

- a) How does Abram bless the Most High God who has defeated all his enemies?
 - i) He gave Him tithes of all. Tithe: *ma'asē*: tithe, tenth.
 - ii) **Tithing truth**
 - (1) This the first use of the word in the Bible. In it we see the seeds of how God sees tithing
 - (2) The tithe is before the Mosaic Law.
 - (3) The Mosaic Law gives types and shadows of the real thing in Christ – it teaches about the nature of the tithe: holy to the Lord, comes first before all other, brought to the storehouse, finances the ministry and the work of the temple, etc. Col 2:16-17 / Heb 10:1
 - (4) The tithe: a covenant blessing of man toward God in response to God's covenant blessing on man. It is given to the High Priest who is Melchizedek.
 - (5) Our High Priest is after the order of Melchizedek. We are walking in the footsteps of the faith of faithful Abraham when we bring Him our tithe. Hebrews 7:2-4 / 8:1-6
 - iii) **The tithe is not works, it is gratitude and honor.** It is designed to allow us to enjoy the covenant of reciprocal blessing with the Most High God who has defeated all our enemies. You don't have to tithe if you choose to live on your best effort, not His.
- b) **Remember where it came from.**
 - i) Blessing is the predictable result of following God and obeying Him. 3 John 2.
 - ii) Financial abundance is a temptation to our human nature. Dt 8:17-18
 - iii) Two huge dangers of blessing:
 - (1) Pride wants to take credit – “I am rich, so I am better than you”
 - (2) Flesh wants to store it up and squander it on me:
 - (a) Luke 12:15-21 “Build bigger barns!!!”
 - (b) Hold the things of this world lightly. 1 Tim 6:17-19

"Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can."
John Wesley