

Study Questions: Faith, Hope, and Glory

Based on Romans 4:18-25

Enduring Hope in Difficult Circumstances

1. Hope Against Hope Abraham believed "against hope" when facing impossible circumstances—his own aged body and Sarah's barrenness. What current situation in your life seems humanly impossible? How can Abraham's example help you maintain hope in God's promises when your circumstances seem to contradict them? What specific promises from Scripture can you cling to?

2. Divine Delays and Your Faith Abraham waited decades for God's promise to be fulfilled. How do you typically respond when God's timing doesn't match your expectations? Reflect on a time when God's delay in your life ultimately proved to be His perfect timing. How can you grow in patience and trust during seasons of waiting?

Unwavering Belief Through Testing

3. Strengthening Faith Through Trials The sermon explains that God strengthened Abraham's faith through trials, "trial by trial." Looking back at difficult seasons in your life, how has God used challenges to build your faith rather than destroy it? What current trial might God be using to grow your trust in Him?

4. Fighting Unbelief Paul notes that "no unbelief made him waver." What thoughts, doubts, or fears most commonly cause you to waver in your faith? What practical strategies can you develop to combat unbelief when it arises? How can you remind yourself of God's faithfulness in past situations?

Living for God's Glory

5. Faith That Glorifies God Abraham glorified God by trusting Him to keep His word despite impossible circumstances. In what specific areas of your life can you better glorify God by demonstrating trust in His promises? How does living by faith (rather than by what you can see or control) bring glory to God's name?

6. Despite Human Impossibility, Abraham's growing faith "persevered in the face of human impossibility" and thus brought greater glory to God. Are there areas in your life where you're relying too heavily on your own abilities rather than trusting God? How might stepping out in greater dependence on God showcase His power and faithfulness?

Walking by Faith vs. Sight

7. The Abraham vs. Lot Choice Abraham lived for unseen eternal realities while Lot settled for visible earthly pleasures. In your daily decisions—career choices, financial priorities,

relationships, entertainment—are you more like Abraham or Lot? What practical steps can you take to increasingly "walk by faith, not by sight"?

8. Eternal Perspective in Daily Life How does remembering that you're an heir of God's promises change the way you view temporary setbacks, financial pressures, or relational conflicts? Give specific examples of how an eternal perspective should influence your current priorities and decisions.

Justification and Relationship with God

9. Christ's Death and Resurrection The passage ends by connecting Abraham's faith to our faith in Christ, "who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." How does understanding both Christ's death (for your sins) and resurrection (for your justification) impact your daily relationship with God? How should this truth affect your confidence in prayer and your assurance of salvation?

10. Experiencing vs. Just Believing Pastor Sam emphasized experiencing justification by faith, not just believing it doctrinally. In practical terms, what would it look like for you to move from merely knowing about God's promises to actually experiencing "unquenchable joy," "unshakeable hope," and "personal stability" in your daily life? What changes would others notice in your attitudes and responses?

Bonus Reflection Questions for Deeper Application:

For Personal Growth:

- Which aspect of Abraham's faith (enduring hope, unwavering belief, God-glorifying trust, or salvation-focused purpose) do you most need to develop in your current season of life?

For Community Impact:

- How can your faith journey encourage others who are facing their own "impossible" circumstances? Who in your life needs to see an example of faith that glorifies God through trials?

For Community Impact:

- For group discussion: Choose 2-3 questions that most resonate with your current life circumstances and share how you plan to apply these truths in the coming week.