**Father Abraham pt. 2: By Faith, Not By Circumcision**

**(Romans 4:9-12)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Describe a time in your life when you had to repeat yourself numerous times in order to help someone understand what you were trying to convey. After reviewing Paul’s argument(s) in Romans 3:21-4:25, what words or phrases does he repeat? Why? Write down the words and phrases you noted and offer a description and/or definition of each one.
2. We cannot trust someone we do not know (Ps. 50:21). How many attributes of God can you name and define? How would you describe the Person and work of Jesus Christ? How does Romans 5:9 help us understand what the object of our faith is? Why is this important? What is more important, the strength of your faith or the strength of the object of your faith? Think of an analogy to describe your answer (i.e. a bridge) and explain. How should this encourage you?
3. Why is the order of faith before obedience so important? What are the consequences of reversing the order? Where else do you see this “faith before obedience” idea in Scripture? How would you describe the relationship between justification (being declared righteous by faith in Christ) and sanctification (being progressively conformed to the image of Christ)? What imperatives (commands, instructions, etc.) are you neglecting to obey? Why? What do you perhaps need to do before trying to simply be obedient?
4. In what way(s) is the doctrine of justification by faith alone a “missionary doctrine”? What Old Testament texts highlight the fact that God has always intended to bring the nations under his gracious Kingship? In light of Paul’s teaching about the identity of the people of God (i.e. Eph. 2:11-22), what way(s) should the doctrine of justification by faith impact the life of the local church? If Jesus, as Piper said, is the “end of ethnocentrism,” why are so many churches homogenous? What should be our disposition toward other cultures and races?