**Father Abraham pt. 4: By Grace, through Faith**

(Romans 4:16-17)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What is your understanding of the phrase “God gives grace”? How would you define grace? Why do you think that grace factors so largely in Paul’s theology? Why does Paul put law and grace in such sharp contrast to one another? How does the law leak back into your life? In your own words, describe the relationship between grace and obedience. As you look through the Book of Romans, what appears to be the relationship between grace and obedience? In what way(s) do you get out of balance in this area in your life?
2. How does God give faith? How does God sustain it in our lives? Why is the object of our faith of more importance than the strength of our faith? If your salvation ultimately depended on your adherence to the law, what degree of assurance would you experience? Examine 2 Peter 1:3-10 and answer the following questions: What does Peter mean when he calls us to “make [our] calling and election sure”? How did he start this passage? Why is that important? What place do God’s promises have in our experience of assurance?
3. What is your understanding of the phrase “God gives life”? How would you define it (regeneration)? In light of Paul’s description of sinful mankind in Ephesians 2:1-3, why are Paul’s words in Romans 4:17 so important? How does a passage like Ezekiel 36:25-27 help us understand? What did God create in reference to Abraham? What does he create in the life of a sinner who is called to repent and believe the promises of the gospel?
4. Jonah declared, “Salvation belongs to the Lord!” (Jonah 2:9). In what way(s) do you see this reality spelled out in Romans 4:16-17? What practical effect should a robust understanding of God’s grace have in your life? How would you respond to the following objection: If it’s all about God’s sovereign grace, then we shouldn’t pray, evangelize, or call people to repent and believe.