

## Grace Guarantees the Promise

Romans 4:16-18

Paul diligently shows that God has a very special relationship with Abraham and all his descendents (believers) *“for Abraham is the father of all them that believe”* (v.11). *“And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise”* (Galatians 3:29). This special relationship exists because of a perfect righteousness within Abraham and all believers (“imputed righteousness”). Jesus said, *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48). It is impossible to be perfect unless *“God declares you perfect with imputed righteousness.”* As a result of this special relationship with God through Jesus Christ, **there is a promise of an inheritance.** The word “inherit” is used over 300 times in the Bible. *“In Christ we have obtained an inheritance”* (Ephesians 1:11). What is the inheritance we have in Him?

- (1). Paul calls this inheritance *“the world”* (*“an heir of the world”* v.11).
- (2). He also calls it *“the kingdom of Christ”* (Ephesians 5:5). He refers to it a dozen times.
- (3). Jesus tells Paul he is to *“open eyes . . . to the inheritance that is in me”* (Acts 26:18).
- (4). The writer of Hebrews calls it *“an eternal inheritance”* (Hebrews 9:15).
- (5). Peter calls it *“an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you”* (I Peter 1:4). Can I not mess all this up and lose it?

### I. Grace is the guarantee of the promise . . .

*“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace (literally: “in accordance with grace”) : to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed”* (Romans 4:11).

*“In all this weighty writing Paul has a precious practical aim in view: your certainty that the promise of being an heir of the world will come true for you, an imperfect, stumbling, believing, justified, sinning saint”* **John Piper on Rom. 4:11.**

#### (A). Your works do not guarantee the promise.

**Romans 4:4-5.** *“Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor (literally: “in accordance with grace”) but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”*

#### (B). Your faith does not guarantee the promise.

Faith in Jesus Christ is essential, but faith is not the guarantee of the promise. Faith is the gift of God's grace, the way seeing is the gift of light and the way hearing is the gift of sound, and the way tasting is the gift of food on the tongue. Grace guarantees the promise --- faith enjoys the promise!

### II. God is the guarantor of the promise . . .

God is He who gives grace to the ungodly. He is the one who insures an inheritance.

(A). *He quickens the dead* --- (v.17). He gives life to the soul dead in sin.

(B). *He calls those things which be **not** as though they were* --- (v.17).

God can call an ungodly man godly, a sinner a saint --- because it is His work!

Your job and mine is to *“against hope believe in hope.”* Trust Him. This He requires.