

# The Progenitor Of Christian Faith

The great doctrine of faith takes us back to Abraham and thus antedates the law given to Moses by 430 years.

**Galatians 3:15-18** [NIV] *“Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no-one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say ‘and to seeds’, meaning many people, but ‘and to your seed’, meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.”*

God kept His promise to Abraham [**Genesis 17:7-8**], He has **not** revoked it, though thousands of years have passed.

God saved Abraham through his faith, and blessed the whole of humanity through Abraham by sending the Messiah [Jesus Christ] as one of Abraham’s descendants.

Circumstances may change, but God remains constant, [**Hebrews 13:8**] and does **not** break His promises.

God has promised to forgive our sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, [**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**] and we can be sure that God the Father will accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our deserved death. [**Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21**]

**Romans 4:9-16** [NIV] *“Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring, not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.”*

Paul explains that Abraham pleased God through his faith alone, before he had ever heard about the rituals that would become so important to the Jewish people.

**We also are saved by faith plus nothing.**

It is **not** by loving God and doing good works that we are saved, only our faith in what Jesus Christ has done for all humanity on the cross.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

**We are saved from deserved death by faith in Jesus Christ, so that God can use us for good works that will lead others to Jesus Christ as their only Saviour.**

There is a mistaken notion that in the Old Testament salvation came by obedience to the law, while in the New Testament it comes by faith.

The truth is that since the beginning of human history salvation was only through grace and faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Genesis 3:21** [NIV] *“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”*

When God [**Jesus Christ – 1 Corinthians 10:4**] slew these, presumably lambs, to cover the nakedness, that was only aware to them after sinning [**Genesis 3:7-8**], He was telling all humanity, in symbolic language, that redemption would be by the merit of innocent life laid down, His own as Son of God.

This idea was never wholly lost to humanity for when the law was given to point people to the deadliness of sin [**Romans 7:7; Romans 3:20**] it was accompanied by a system of sin offerings and atoning sacrifices that led straight to the Saviour of all humanity, Jesus Christ. [**John 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 1:9**]

**John 1:29, 35** [NIV] *“The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” ... “The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.”*

**When John the Baptist pointed to Jesus Christ, he was identifying Jesus with the sacrificial lambs that had been offered for sin from the time of Abel to the appearance of Emmanuel.**

**There is as much about mercy in the Old Testament as in the New.**

**Grace and love is found throughout the Old Testament.**

**Justification by faith is an Old Testament doctrine.**

It was first associated with Abraham, appearing later in the writings of King David and Habakkuk.

**No matter what the circumstances, everyone who came to the Creator God came by faith.**

Those in ancient times looked forward to the first coming of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross, we must look back and have faith in the same Saviour.

Everyone and anyone may find forgiveness and cleansing through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All true knowledge of God and any spiritual growth must also come through faith in our Jesus Christ, the same faith of our spiritual ancestor Abraham the human father of the faithful.