**Romans Series March 12, 2023**

**God’s Promises - Romans 4:13-25**

The Big Idea

In the same way that God accomplished His promises to Abraham, who accepted them by faith, Christians today can be assured that God will see His promises achieved by faith.

1. God’s Promises to His People Are **Accepted by Faith** Romans 4:13-15

* If a person relies upon being “a good person” to be right with God, he or she is trouble
	+ “for the Law brings about wrath” (Rom. 4:15a)
	+ Breaking one law, even the smallest of them, invokes God’s demand for the sin to be paid for

2. God’s Promises **Are Given by Grace** Romans 4:16-17

* Grace is God’s abundant gift whereby He gives to men and women that which is not deserved
	+ Grace is also defined as God’s undeserved favor or God’s favor which was not earned in any way
	+ Grace is not dependent upon any person, but rather upon God’s generosity toward His people

3. God’s Promises **Enable Hope** Romans 4:18

* Hope means to look forward to the future with the confidence that it will happen
	+ Hope is not merely wishful thinking
	+ It is based on the ability of God to cause it to happen (His sovereignty and omnipotence)

4. God’s Promises Show that the **Impossible is Possible** Romans 4:19-22

* When God made the initial promise to Abraham, he was 75 years old
* Later, God repeated His promise to Abraham when he was 99 years old (see Genesis 17:1-6)
	+ Even though 24 years had passed since God’s initial promise, Abraham was not deterred at all
	+ He knew God would make the impossible become possible
* Christians should not be discouraged when it seems like it is taking a LONG time for God to bring out His plan
	+ Abraham believed, “without becoming weak in faith” (Rom 4:19a)
	+ His faith never waivered because he believed God and was fully confident that God’s promises would happen, even at 100 years old

5. God’s Promises **are for all Generations** Romans 4:23-25

* Abraham’s faith was recorded to encourage us to persevere in the faith
	+ Those who believe Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead, will inherit all of God’s promises
* Jesus sacrificed His life “because of our transgressions” (Rom 4:25b)
* He was raised to live to make us right with God which is justification
	+ At His resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, sin, and death and triumphed over them by the cross

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