

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME**

### **GOD WILL DO WHAT HE HAS PROMISED**

Romans 4:20-21 “. . . he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised.”

Abraham was a wealthy man. He possessed more than most of the things of this world. His herds were large. His workers were numerous. He was blessed by Yahweh with many of the things of this world that people count as wealth. The world would have said that he was a prosperous, wealthy man.

Life's challenges can be daunting, can't they? Abraham would have traded his earthly wealth for a son. He had no heir to whom he could pass on his wealth. There was no male child, so important in the cultural of that day, to carry on the family name. He and Sarah were getting older and older and the possibility of conceiving and giving birth to a male heir seemingly had passed.

Paul, in today's devotional verse, wrote, “. . .he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding God's promise. . .” God had promised Abraham he would have a son to whom he would pass on the family name. Though to the world it appeared there was no way for God's promise to be fulfilled, Abraham never doubted. He believed not only that God could, but would do what He had promised.

Yahweh, through the Prophet Jeremiah said to Israel, “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?” Jesus taught, “With man this (your salvation) is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26) Yahweh's words to Jeremiah were His promise He would be with Israel to watch over and protect them in spite of their being taken captive by their enemy. Jesus' words were directed toward God's plan of salvation which appeared to be impossible to bring about.

God kept His promise given to Abraham and the one given through Jeremiah. God kept His promise given through Jesus. God keeps the promises He made to you at the time of your baptism and which He makes to you through His gospel. As God strengthened Abraham's faith to trust and rely on God's promises, God strengthens you in your faith and trust in Him. Through His Word and the Sacraments His Spirit maintains your faith even to life everlasting. With God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, keep the eyes of my heart ever on my Heavenly Father giving me faith to trust His promises. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!  
(LSB 733)