

# Abraham's example and the new life

- Paul the Apostle's letter to the Romans

Talk 3 : Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012

- Romans Chapter 4v1-5v11

# Abraham's experience

- Why does Paul use Abraham as an example ?
- Father of Jews and most important to them
- Links the Torah (Old Testament )and Israel's ancient faith to the Gospel
- Why important for us today ?
- Even wider influence today – Father of Christians as well as Jews through Jesus and also claimed by Islam
- Lifetime account (over 40 years of highs and lows and in between ) of his very personal relationship with God (Gen 11-25 )

# Abrahams experience

- Central verse –Romans 4v 3 quoted directly from Genesis 15v6
- **“Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness”**
- Abraham put his trust in God’s promise that he would have a son –a very personal trust over many years
- Abraham did this before the Law or the sign of circumcision were given
- The essential core was his faith and response to God’s promise not his circumcision ( religious observance )
- Parallel with today .....
- Chapter 4 goes on to give the heart of Abrahams relationship with God

# Abraham justified by Faith

- He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.
- <sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

# Peace and Hope Romans 5v1-11

- <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we<sup>[b]</sup> rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we<sup>[c]</sup> also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
- <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

# Romans 5 v1-11- Living the faith

- Peace with God
- Access to God through Jesus Christ
- Joy
- All 3 of these give meaning even to suffering /trials
- Perseverance and character
- Beyond Abraham experience we have Christ ....
- Reconciliation and forgiveness is the beginning of a whole new life