

Active Faith

Thought for the week Yr 4 No 50

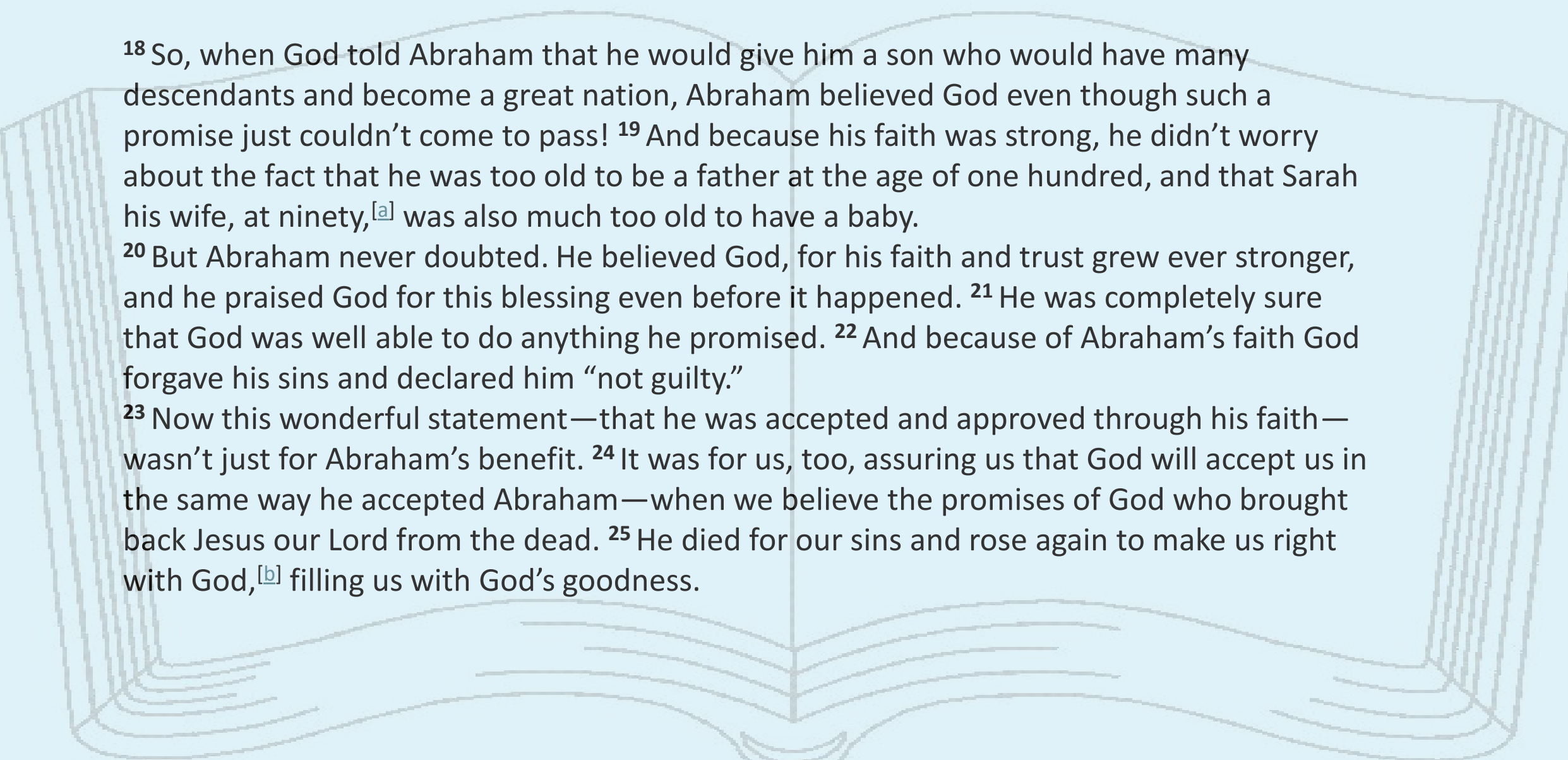
Prayer for today

- Take a moment.
- Open your hands.
- Close your eyes.
- Sit in the stillness.
- You might like to join in with the following words
- God of still small voices and quiet spaces, God of this moment and this day, make yourself known to me today, that I might come to know You more fully and serve You more graciously.
- God of the rest of my week, help me to be a blessing to those I meet this and every day, a reminder of your love for all people, no matter what their situation.
- In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Romans 4 : 13 - 25

- ¹³ It is clear, then, that God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was not because Abraham obeyed God's laws but because he trusted God to keep his promise. ¹⁴ So if you still claim that God's blessings go to those who are "good enough," then you are saying that God's promises to those who have faith are meaningless, and faith is foolish. ¹⁵ But the fact of the matter is this: when we try to gain God's blessing and salvation by keeping his laws we always end up under his anger, for we always fail to keep them. The only way we can keep from breaking laws is not to have any to break!
- ¹⁶ So God's blessings are given to us by faith, as a free gift; we are certain to get them whether or not we follow Jewish customs if we have faith like Abraham's, for Abraham is the father of us all when it comes to these matters of faith. ¹⁷ That is what the Scriptures mean when they say that God made Abraham the father of many nations. God will accept all people in every nation who trust God as Abraham did. And this promise is from God himself, who makes the dead live again and speaks of future events with as much certainty as though they were already past.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with faint, light blue horizontal lines. The book is open to two pages, with the text from the previous block on the left page and the current block on the right page. The spine of the book is visible in the center, and the edges of the pages are slightly rounded. The background is a solid light blue color.

¹⁸ So, when God told Abraham that he would give him a son who would have many descendants and become a great nation, Abraham believed God even though such a promise just couldn't come to pass! ¹⁹ And because his faith was strong, he didn't worry about the fact that he was too old to be a father at the age of one hundred, and that Sarah his wife, at ninety,^[a] was also much too old to have a baby.

²⁰ But Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. ²¹ He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised. ²² And because of Abraham's faith God forgave his sins and declared him "not guilty."

²³ Now this wonderful statement—that he was accepted and approved through his faith—wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. ²⁴ It was for us, too, assuring us that God will accept us in the same way he accepted Abraham—when we believe the promises of God who brought back Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God,^[b] filling us with God's goodness.

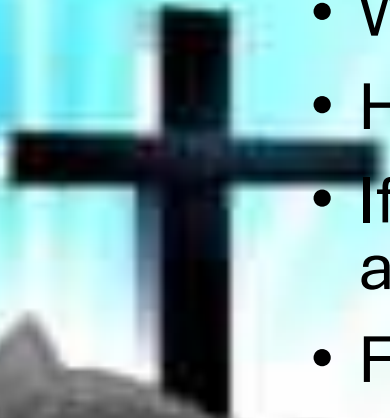
Faith before Easter

- As I was thinking about what to share today, I thought about the fact that next week is Palm Sunday and after that Easter Sunday, both weeks have an obvious subject.
- Then I thought about Lent – I am not very good at Lent - and I feel there is not a lot to say about it now.
- So I am indebted to “The Vine at home” for their February email with this reading in it.
- It sits really well to think about Faith as we enter the period in which we reflect on the centre of our Faith.
- We are all very familiar with the story of the last week of Jesus’ life and the glorious resurrection, but we can only really accept it and act upon it through Faith.



Faith and belief.

- For those who don't know Jesus the coming period of Easter has no meaning other than an extra Bank Holiday or two.
- For those of us who do it is the centre of what we believe.
- We believe in one God, one Lord – Jesus Christ.
- We believe that God stepped down onto earth and in the person of Jesus Christ was crucified to bring us forgiveness of sin and resurrection life.
- WOW that is the most awesome thing we could possibly believe in.
- However, that is not where we stop.
- If we believe this then we must act upon it and this is what Faith is all about.
- Faith is belief in action.



Abraham

- Abraham demonstrated Faith.
- God called Him and he believed.
- God promised him a son and even though he and Sarah were passed the natural age of childbearing – he believed.
- When God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, he believed God will still fulfil his promise to him that he would make of him a great nation, so he set out.
- That is Faith.
- Not just saying “I believe” but acting on the God given promise.





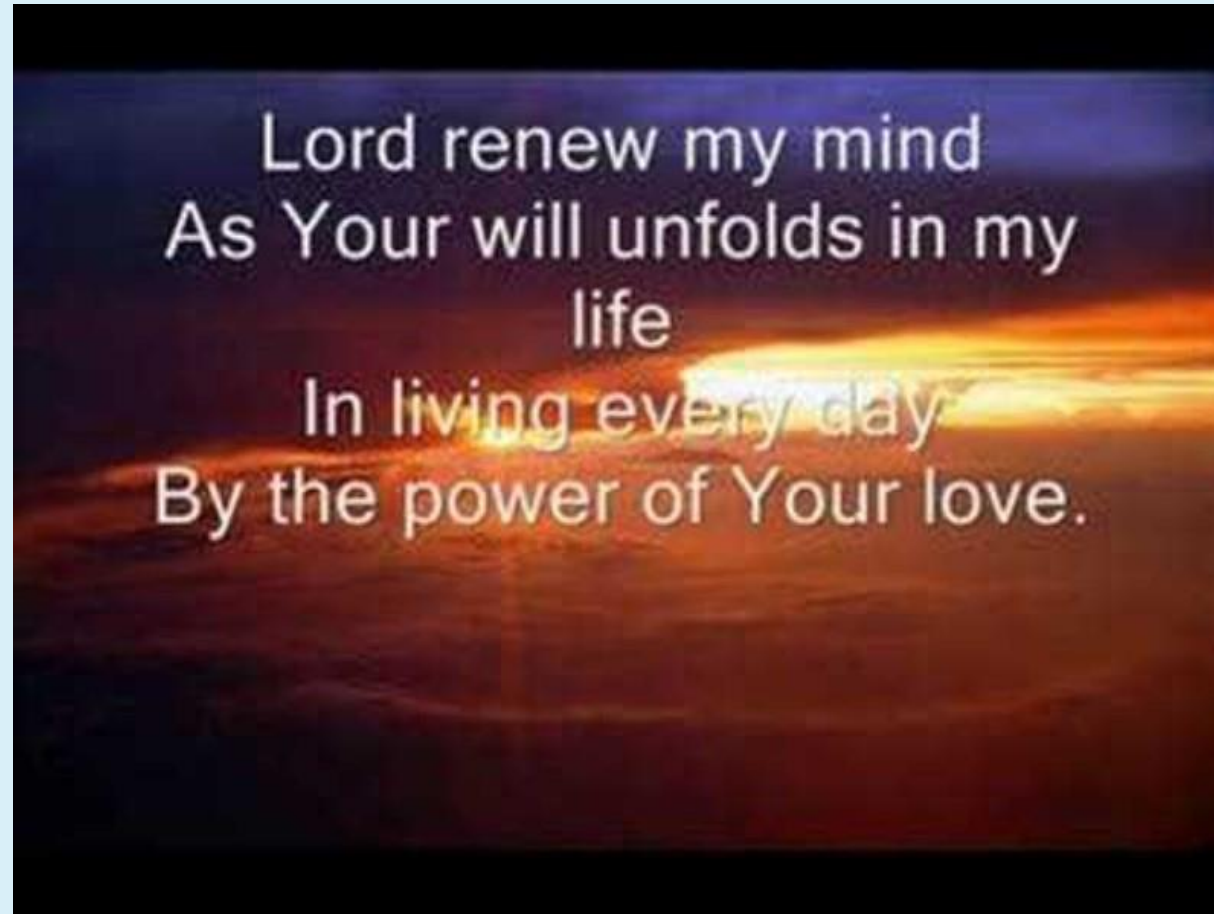
Abraham's Faith

- Abraham believed firmly in the promises God gave to him.
- He acted on those promises through Faith.
- His Faith was the core of his being and he did whatever God asked of him because he believed that God would fulfil his promises.
- As we move into Eastertide it is a bit of an emotional roller coaster.
- The high of palm Sunday is followed by the low of maundy Thursday, but even in the midst of that the gift of bread and wine to remember Jesus by.
- Then the silence of Easter Saturday followed by the glorious resurrection Sunday.
- We were not there we did not witness these events, but we believe they happened and we act upon them by Faith.

Let's pray.

- Dear Father, we thank you for the Faith of Abraham. He believed and acted on that belief even when circumstances seemed so difficult. As we come towards the end of Lent and enter into Eastertide may our Faith grow as we read again the story of the passion of Jesus and sing our hymns of gladness on Easter Sunday. Thank you in Jesus' name Amen.
- Father our world is a perplexing and quite frightening place to be in at the moment. The wars in Gaza and Ukraine fill us with sadness and horror at what is happening especially to those caught up in the middle of fighting losing families, homes, food, We pray for all those who are trying to bring peace, and particularly we pray for the delivery of aid, please protect those who are working to bring relief and enable them to make a fair distribution of aid.
- We pray today for those we know who need help and healing.....

Power of Your Love (youtube.com)



The Grace

- May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.
- Amen