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11-16-2023

GOD FORGIVES FAILURE

In the “faith Hall of Fame” of Hebrews Chapter 11, Abraham is lauded as the prime example of faith, or the “Father of Faith” so to speak. The Jews of Jesus’ time regarded him as their father. They considered themselves special people above all the other people of the world because they descended from this great man of God who had impeccable faith.

However, this great “man of faith” was often a failure due specifically to a lack of faith. Three prime examples come to mind.

After 75-year-old Abram left Haran and entered Canaan where God sent him, a severe famine led him to move to Egypt where there was food. He had no faith that God would provide for him in the very land where God had sent him. He also had no faith that God would protect him in Egypt. Fear (the opposite of faith) gripped him that Pharaoh would take Sarai, his beautiful wife, to become his own wife. (Genesis 12:10-20.) Because of this he lied to Pharaoh with a half-truth that Sarai was his “sister.” Abram would have been between 76 to 80 at this time. He was a man of doubt and fear.

At age 90 God made a covenant with Abram and changed his name to Abraham as seen in Genesis 17. He became “Father Abraham of many nations.” (Genesis 17:5.)

Nevertheless, around the same time Abraham repeated the same act of doubt and fear with a pagan king named Abimelech which we see in Genesis 20. He told king Abimelech that Sarah (Sarai’s new name) was his sister. He lied again.

Later, another act of doubt, prompted by fear that he would have no son, despite God’s promise of a son, he took Hagar and had a son with her named Ishmael. He doubted God’s promise that he would have a child with Sarah. He was about 85 at this time.

So, how could a man of such fear and doubt be considered the greatest man of faith, the Father of faith?

Hebrews 11 says that it was because he obeyed God’s instruction to leave his father’s house and go to Canaan, a land that was not known to him.

But there is an even greater factor that I see. It is the mercy and grace of God who forgave Abraham of all his fears and failures. Abraham had demonstrated his belief upon God as he erected altars to Jehovah in various locations around Canaan where he would camp.

God showed a special grace to him (Genesis 14:18-20) as the pre-incarnate Jesus showed up to Abraham in the form of Melchizedek. Melchizedek (Yeshua) shared the bread and wine of holy communion, which represents covenant, with Abraham and blessed him.

This shows that God will forgive our failures and will complete the work in us that He has begun. God brought Abraham to perfection (full maturity) because of Abraham's faith.

Philippians 1:6 says, ***"Being confident of this very thing (fact), that He which hath begun a good work (of salvation, blessing) in you will perform (complete) it until the day of Jesus Christ (his return)."***

Have you had sin or failures even as a believer? (Who hasn't?) God forgives the repentant ones. He will fulfill and complete your destiny by His grace and power. Do not reflect with feelings of guilt over any failures that you have repented of. God has forgiven you, so you must also forgive yourself. Move forward to complete your destiny in Him.