

# THE STORY OF GOD: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

GENESIS 15:6 — DEC 6, 2009

## **How can God bless Abram and every people group?**

Galatians 3:8 — In Gen 12:3 God preaches the gospel to Abram—that he will justify the Gentiles through faith.

Justification is explained in Genesis 15:6 — God counts Abram's faith as a lifetime of perfect, moral righteousness.

How can a just God do that? Through what Jesus would do thousands of years in the future.

When Abram trusted God, God put all of Abram's sins upon Jesus so Jesus was punished by God because of Abram's sin; and God gave Abram all of Jesus' perfect righteousness so Abram was loved by God because of Jesus' perfect righteousness.

The only way Abram and any of us can be justified is by faith alone.

## **How can I be sure I have this kind of faith?**

Abram's faith is illustrated in Genesis 12:1-3 —

Faith means understanding God's promises ...

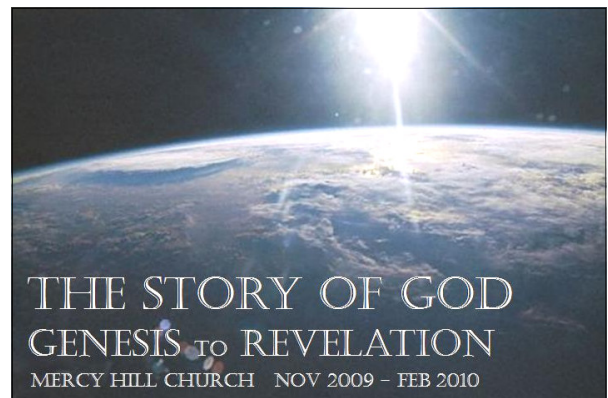
So that I turn from what else I've been trusting for my satisfaction ...

And trust all that God promises to be to me in Jesus.

So — see God's promises — see who God is in Jesus — and turn to trust Him alone to forgive, change, provide for, and satisfy you in Himself.

And what can you do when you find that you have no faith? God promises to use His Word to give you faith (Rom 10:17).

So pray, and then feast on God as He's revealed in Scripture. Your faith will increase.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Does it make sense that Tiger Woods' story shows that we can never be satisfied by anything other than knowing God in the person of Jesus? Why or why not?

Do you agree that people in the Old Testament are saved in the same way as people in the New Testament? Why or why not? How do Gal 3:8 and Gen 15:6 help you in understanding this?

Did the illustration of a dad counting his son's sorrow as a clean room help you understand Gen 15:6? Why or why not?

How can you tell when you are drifting from relying on Jesus to justify you — and when you are starting to rely on your own works to justify you?

What other chair (besides God's promises) have you been tempted to rest in? What is it about God that makes it entirely reasonable to turn to trust Him alone?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

