HOLD ON TO YOUR HOPE

**18** Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. **19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: Romans 4:18-19 (KJV)

 There are many things that we hope for that we may never receive. We may hope for good weather tomorrow. We may hope for our favorite football team to go undefeated or beat our arch rival. Hopefully the economy will recover. We hope ISIS is brought under control or defeated before another person is beheaded. Our hopes are sometimes defined more as our dreams. They may or may not be fulfilled.

 In much the same way Abraham hoped for him and Sarah to have a son to be his successor and to have him grandchildren so that he might continue to have seed down through the ages. He hoped for a land that he could call his own. There came a time when it seemed that these hopes would never come to fruition. What Abraham did is what we need to do. He stopped hoping **for** things and placed his hope **in** God.

 With his hope in God, Abraham’s faith in God was so strong that he did not even consider his own body, his activities, his abilities, his appetite, his ambition, or his alertness. He did not consider the past; the past twenty-four years of shattered dreams and the six different times that God had spoken to him. In fact, with his hope in God, the years do not come into play. Abraham is about one hundred years old with a dead body and Sarah about ninety with a dead reproductive system and Abraham’s faith is firmly planted in God. If his hope is only in his condition, his companion, or in the calendar, he will surely give up.

 Is your hope in Jesus Christ or are you merely hoping for a bunch of things? The things you hope for may be good things and you may doing an honorable thing to hope for them. You may be hoping for an opportunity to do some type of mission work or hoping for the salvation of a friend, child or spouse. These are good, honorable dreams and wishes. God would have you reach the spiritual place that Abraham found where your hope is not **for** anything but rather **in** Christ Jesus. That is where our true needs are met. In Christ, our dreams according to God’s will come true.

 One last thing I would like to mention. Our seed can be like the stars in the sky. This was a promise to Abraham. We want to judge whether or not we are a success by the few years we live. In Abraham’s lifetime he and Sarah had only one son. He could count his seed on one finger. God’s greater promise to Abraham came after he had died. Let us hold on to hope while we live and trust God with the legacy that follows.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram