

Commentary on the Gospel for Mon, Oct 21st 2013

Paul looks to Abraham as a model of faith in today's epistle.

“Abraham did not doubt God's promise in unbelief;

Rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God

and was fully convinced that what God had promised

He was also able to do.”

Recall God's promise to Abraham. God spoke to Abraham telling him to leave his father's house and to go forth to a new land, promising to make him and his descendants into a great nation. Abraham trusted God and went forth as the Lord had directed.

We Christians, like Paul, rightly look to Abraham as a model of faith!

The heart of faith is accepting God's invitation to a trusting personal relationship — it is not merely assenting to doctrines about God.

But how often the circumstances in life conspire to make us doubt this relationship. We find ourselves asking where God is amid trials and challenges — in accidents, failures, betrayals, sickness, natural disasters, deaths.

And how often the secular materialistic conditioning of our culture also conspire to make us doubt this relationship.

For faith it is not a once-for-all thing! We believers are invited to deepen faith by trusting the Lord to sustain us -- especially in our trials. We join the disciples in begging the Lord to "Increase our faith!"

But God is our rock! God has been with us in the past; God is with us now; God will be with us in the future.

For two thousand years we Christians have had a "cloud of witnesses" testifying to this truth.

Dick Hauser, S.J.