

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Reformation Sunday

These questions are for the **October 31, 2021** sermon, "Declared righteous." Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 15:1-6) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOTE . . .

1. The assurance given by God. (1-3)
 - a. It's been 25 years since God promised Abram an heir.
 - i. Resist the tendency to "help" God with your own plan for blessing.
 - ii. Never take counsel from your fears. Especially while you wait on God.
 - b. By his own Word, God assures Abram . . .
 - i. Fear not, while you wait for God to fulfill his promise.
 - ii. God is your "shield," covering every vulnerability while you wait.
 - iii. God's fulfilled promise is better than all the money in the world.
2. The promise made by God. (4-5)
 - a. "Behold," is an instruction to look at (focus on) things that God is doing.
 - b. Even while we wait, our future is as bright as the promises of God. He will do it!
 - c. God often delays to make certain that he gets all the glory.
3. The righteousness declared by God. (6)
 - a. God wants his children to fully trust him. Believe him. Actions and emotions.
 - b. God does not "make righteous," but "declares" righteous by faith (belief).
 - i. Abram put his faith in the promised "offspring" to come, Christ Jesus.
 - ii. We put our faith in the offspring who has come. Christ Jesus.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How are you (right now) frustrated with God's timing and unfulfilled promises? How are you tempted to devise alternate plans? How have you begun to work some alternative plans?
2. Based on #1, above: How are your emotions and feelings doing while you wait? Are there tensions in your soul? Between you and God? Between you and other believers? Note that God's instruction ("Fear not") is dependent upon believing him. Does the presence of God and God's promises change your level of fear and anxiety? In what way?
3. Based on #2, above: God repeats his promise of an offspring from Abram's "own body." What promise(s) do you have from God about his provision and presence? In what ways can you "behold" (focus on) those promises?
4. Based on #3, above: Abram is declared righteous by God because Abram believes (puts complete faith in) God. This does not mean that Abram was sinless, but that he believed God would send a sinless one (his own offspring) to pay for his sins. Do you fully trust God's sinless one? Tell us about that moment when God "declared" you "righteous" because of your trust in his sinless servant.