

FATHER ABRAHAM

“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Gal 3:29)

In Gen. 17:4 God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Abraham did become a father just as God promised, and his “fatherhood” is mentioned many times in the N.T. Scriptures. Here are some of those references (Lk. 1:73; 3:8; 3:34; 13:16; 16:24, 25, 30; Jn. 8:33, 37, 39, 53, 56; 7:2; Rom. 4:1, 2, 16, 9:7; 11:1, 22; Gal. 3:29; Heb. 2:16; Ja. 2:21; etc.)

(Here are 7 things that made Abraham a good example for all fathers. Please consider:)

1. Abraham had the courage to believe in God though he was surrounded by pagans. Consider these words of Joshua: **“Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods.” (Josh 24:2).** Every father needs the courage to stand for truth in the midst of error.

2. Abraham was a worshiper of God. Here are some of the places that Abraham built altars: Shechem (Gen. 12:7); near Bethel and Ai (Gen. 12:8); Hebron (Gen. 13:18); Moriah (Gen. 22:9). The worship of Abraham was not easy, convenient, or entertaining, but he worshiped just the same. So should we.

3. Abraham was also a good father because he had a growing faith. In fact, his faith grew to the place where it was credited unto him as righteousness (Gen. 15:6). Abraham had some faith when God called him out of Ur in Chaldea. His journey took him to Haran, Egypt and the Promised Land. His faith grew to the place where he could defeat his enemies, pay tithes, and even conceive a son in a barren wife. The most significant and lasting benefit of his faith, however, was when God credited it to him for righteousness. Lord, increase our faith as you did for Abraham (Lk. 17:5).

4. Abraham was a good father because he was a peace maker. When his herdsmen quarreled with the herdsmen of Lot, Abraham generously said: **“So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.” (Gen 13:8-9).** Jesus said that peacemakers would be called the sons of God (Matt. 5:9). Every father needs to be a peacemaker.

5. Abraham was a good father because he was willing to fight for and to protect his family. When kings from the East kidnaped his nephew Lot, Abraham took 318 trained men from his own household and followed them as far as the city of Dan. Abraham divided his men and attacked these kings under the cover of darkness. When the kings fled Abraham and his men pursued them as far as Habah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and rescued Lot and his family. Those who do not provide for their families are worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim. 5:8).

6. Abraham was a good father because he obeyed God. James, the brother of Jesus reminds us by inspiration that faith without works is dead. He wrote: **“Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.” (James 2:21-24)** Every father needs to demonstrate his faith by what he does.

7. Abraham was a good father because he has gone to heaven before his children and waits to welcome them into the presence of God. Remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Jesus said that Lazarus died and was carried by the angels into the bosom of Abraham (Lk. 16:22). Every father ought to be in heaven waiting to welcome his children home. There is something worse than dying and going to hell. It is dying and going to hell and finding out too late that your bad example brought your children to hell with you.

(We are children of Abraham by faith - these are 7 good reasons to be like our spiritual father)