

Morning Nourishment

Acts And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The 7:2 God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran. **Gen.** And he believed Jehovah, and He accounted it to 15:6 him as righteousness.

God appeared to Abraham again and again. Many of us have held the wrong concept... that [Abraham] was a giant in faith... As I considered the history of Abraham, I realized that he was not the giant of faith. The only giant of faith is God Himself. God, as the giant of faith, transfused Himself into him. After Abraham had spent time in God's presence, he could not help believing in Him, because he had been transfused with God. Thus, Abraham was attracted to God and reacted to Him in believing. His reaction was his believing [in the God of glory]... The incident in Genesis 15 was not God's first appearing to him. Several other appearances preceded it. (*Life-study of Romans*, p. 93)

Today's Reading

The first appearing was that recorded in Acts 7. Two more appearances are found in Genesis 12: in the first of these (vv. 1-3) God told Abraham to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house; in the second one (vv. 7-8) God promised Abraham to give the land to his seed. After this, Abraham, who had little experience in believing, fell into Egypt. God's fourth appearing to Abraham was in Genesis 13:14-17, when He told Abraham to lift up his eyes and look in every direction at the land. Therefore, the appearing of God in Genesis 15:1-7 was the fifth; it was nothing new to Abraham. God had appeared to Abraham repeatedly, and Abraham had experienced the riches of God's appearing, coming to have confidence in them. During the first four appearances, God's element had been transfused and infused into Abraham's being. When God appeared to Abraham, He did not leave suddenly. He stayed with Abraham for a length of time... [In Genesis 18] He stayed with him for about half a day, conversing with him for hours as with an intimate friend. Throughout

that whole visitation Abraham was infused with God. During the fifth appearing (Gen. 15) God told Abraham that the number of his seed would be like the stars of heaven. As a result of the fifth appearing, Abraham had experienced such a rich infusion of God that he believed. "And he believed Jehovah, and He accounted it to him as righteousness" (Rom. 4:3; Gen. 15:6).

Abraham's faith did not come from his natural ability, and it did not originate with himself. His believing in God was a reaction to the heavenly radium, a response to the divine infusion. Figuratively speaking, Abraham's believing was simply God working like radium within him... Genuine faith is the working of God within us. This is why God counted Abraham's faith as righteousness. It seemed that God was saying, "This faith is something of Me. It corresponds to Me. This is Abraham's righteousness before Me." What was that righteousness? It was the righteousness of God.

God transfuses Himself into us. Once we have this transfusion, we will experience a spiritual infusion as God's essence infiltrates our being. This infusion of God's element will saturate and permeate us... with God's element.

This permeation causes a reaction. The spiritual virtues and divine attributes that have been transmitted into us will react within us. The first reaction is believing. This is our faith. This is the highest definition of faith. Faith is not our natural ability or virtue. Faith is our reaction toward God, which results from God's transfusing Himself into us and infusing His divine elements into our being. When God's elements permeate our being, we react to Him, and this reaction is faith. Faith is not a human virtue; it is absolutely a reaction caused by a divine infusion, which saturates and permeates our being. Once we have such a faith, we can never lose it. It is deeper than our blood, for it has been infused into us and constituted into our being. Although we may try not to believe, we can never succeed. This is what the Bible means by believing in God. (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 93-94, 90-91)

Further Reading: Life-study of Romans, msg. 8

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____
