

Introduction:

- If you missed the message two weeks ago, the flags on the wall behind me today are to remind us of our roots and to stir a sense of urgency in us. The Appeal to Heaven flag:
 - The flag was the first flag of MA. And it was also the flag commissioned by George Washington to fly over the first 6 Navy cruises of the continental navy. It was an appeal to heaven. “If God does not help us we are sunk!” But more so was the thought that we are appealing to a higher power than the King of England.
 - Dutch Sheets An Appeal to Heaven: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3w8CnD6j5E>
- Review:
 - The Age old Adversary-Your adversary the devil wants to shut you up, shut you down, and take you out. (And it does not have to be in that order.) He does that best with threats. Threat are designed to create fear and fear is used to control.
 - The heavenly appeal. What is an appeal? 1. to make a serious or urgent request.2. to apply to a higher court for a reversal of the decision of a lower court. Intercession/prayer. Appeals to heaven are made when believers understand who they are in Christ and reversals must be made in current rulings. It is appealing to a higher authority!
 - The happiness of obeying God. Vs. 23 They came out of isolation and into the fellowship of companions. vs. 23 They reported all that the religious leaders had said to them. vs. 24 They raised their voices to God in one accord. Revival began with them and in them!
- *““Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.”* (Romans 5:1–2, NLT)

I. Appeals Are Made By Faith

- A. Misdirected Faith makes the appeal to the wrong person. To many Christians make appeals to the wrong thing. They appeal to what they know (in the flesh). An appeal made to anyone other than God is going to a ‘lower court’, a place with lesser authority to get reversal on an earthly ruling.
 1. Ie. I remember years ago the phrase that circulated through the church regarding women who nagged their husbands about God, “Women, don't talk to your husband about God. Talk to God about your husband.” It was an encouragement to women with unbelieving husbands to appeal to a higher court.
 2. A scriptural example of appealing to a lower court was King Saul. Saul was chosen by the people “Give us a king like the other nations.” It was an appeal to a lower form of government. Saul becomes king and watch what he does. 1 Sam 28:4-7...he became frantic with fear. The threat made Saul fearful. And fear controlled Saul. And Saul consulted a witch.
 3. Why do Christians do that? Have misdirected faith? Simple answer: we do not know who we are in Christ. We choose to identify with the lower courts of authority in the realm of the flesh.
- B. Faith in God is the spiritual equipment that is needed by all people who desire to appeal to a higher court.
 1. *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”* (Romans 3:23, NLT)
 - a) Romans 3:9 states that all people are under the power of sin. (That is not the rule of God.) It is living under the rule of a lower court. It requires an appeal to heaven.
 - b) The result of sin is death. Romans 5:15 & 17 The sin of Adam brought death to many. Sin of Adam caused death to rule over many. vs 18 One man’s sin brought condemnation for everyone.

- c) Ie. Adam sinned. Death came to humanity, spiritually and physically. Cain, killed Abel. Man sinned more, death ruled more. Condemnation filled the earth because of sin. This is the work of the devil, spiritual darkness, and all its demons.
- 2. *“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”* (John 10:10, NLT) Stealing, killing, destroy all stand in opposition to life/and to the life of God. This tells the purpose of the two but how do we access the life.
- 3. How do we access the life of God? Faith. Trusting God. Trusting God’s word.
 - a) *“We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.”* (Romans 3:22, NLT)
 - b) *People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.* Ro 3:25
 - c) Ro 3:26 God *declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.*
 - d) Ro 3:27 *...our acquittal...is based on faith.* NLT
 - e) Ro 3:28 *So we are made right with God through faith.*
- C. Faith in Jesus Christ is what brings us into right standing/relationship with God. THIS IS NO SMALL MATTER. DO NOT TAKE THIS FOR GRANTED. IT IS HUGE!!!
 - 1. It cost Jesus His life to make the Father accessible.
 - 2. It cost Jesus His life to deal with your sin.
 - 3. It cost Jesus His life to make us right with God.
 - 4. And He did it joyfully.

II. Faith Puts Us Into the Promises

- A. *imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.* Heb 6:12
 - 1. inherit -from Heb kleronomeo. to inherit what has been given as the allotted portion. “The whole usage is rooted in the sense of God’s overruling of history.”Theological Wordbook of the OT.
 - 2. It was a promise to the Patriarchs, Moses and children of Israel, Prophets, NT Church and to us a far off!
- B. What are we imitating? Ie. Abraham. After Paul expounds on how we are made right with God and how we become right with God through faith, he begins giving us an example...Abraham. Romans chapter 4.
 - 1. vs 2. It was not his good deeds. We do not receive from God by our good deeds. That was not God’s way. Abraham believed God and God counted Him as righteous. It was his faith that put him into the promise of God (Father of Isaac, and many nations). We are talking about appealing to heaven. What do you do when you are facing injustice? Ie. Like the English Colonies in America. (Appeal to heaven! A higher court.) How do you do that? By Faith. What do you do when you are way outnumbered and don’t stand a chance? (Appeal to heaven! Appeal to Almighty! The supreme authority!)
 - 2. *“Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith.”* (Romans 4:13, NLT)
 - a) Abraham was in a right relationship with God. By Faith!
 - b) Abraham had a word from God. That would only come by faith!
 - c) Faith, in Christ, puts you into the promises of God.
 - 3. Breakthrough does not come because of who you are and what you are doing. It comes because of Whose you and What He has said!
 - a) Abraham had nothing in the natural to say that he would be a father of many nations. vs. 19 His faith did not weaken as he looked at his ‘dead’ no longer productive body and the sight was the same when he looked at Sarah. No chance!

- b) But scripture says “His faith did not weaken.” He had faith because of Whose he was. His faith did not weaken in the midst of his circumstances because of Whose he was and What God had said! His faith was his appeal to heaven. He was not praying for a child! He was believing that God would fulfill his promise.
- c) vs 20 says *Abraham never wavered! In fact his faith grew stronger! (This brought glory to God) He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises!*
- d) Abraham’s faith was his appeal to heaven! Not all the hours in prayer, the fasting, the witnessing...his faith. We don’t stop doing those things we just don’t put our confidence in them to earn something from God.

C. *For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes! 2 Cor 1:20*

III. Promises Reveal the Glory of God

A. Romans 4:25 *...He was raised to life to make us right with God.* That is glorious in and of itself.

1. That Jesus was raised to life. Glorious!
2. That Jesus’ raised life gave us life. Glorious! Freed from the power of sin!

B. *“Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.”* (Romans 4:20, NLT) We have to work on not wavering!

1. If Melbourne is going to experience the ‘aftermath’ of God’s glory as was prophesied by Ken Malone in 2011 then we must have the ‘faith of Abraham’ as was prophesied by Bob Jones in 2009! I understand that word was five years ago but Abrahams word was nearly 50 by the time it came to pass!
2. Our lives are an Appeal to Heaven! As believers, by faith we attract heaven to us. In faith, heaven can’t help but come to us. What are you attracting! When heaven comes the glory comes! Our lives of faith bring heaven and heaven brings the glory. We are not waiting for an event called revival, by faith we live revived bringing heaven to others!
3. Peter and John did not go to the temple for an event. They were going to a prayer meeting. They were filled with faith. They were revived because of their relationship with the risen Christ. They did not have silver and gold to offer the beggar but what they had was faith that was attracting heaven and lame man walked. *“Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.”* (Acts 3:16, NLT) It brought God glory and another 2k saved that day!

C. Romans 5:1-2, *“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace (no room for fear or worry) with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.”* (Romans 5:1–2, NLT)

Conclusion:

- All through early American history you read quotes by our founding father’s of Providence, divine providence. Our founding father’s by faith made an appeal to heaven. Their faith attracted heaven to them. I believe that is what has made our nation great. The faith of this people to believe God when the ‘Chips’ are down. To appeal to a higher court for a reversal of evil tiding on the earth.
- God is looking for a people who very lives are an appeal to heaven. Like Abraham, who had no reason to hope, in hope believed that he would be the father of many nations.
- What are you believing for personally? What are you believing God for in Brevard county?
- If God be for us, and He is, then who, what could possibly stand against us!