

Relaxed Abandonment

In the Grip of Grace - 6

There is an imaginary story of a man who fell off a cliff. As he fell, he caught a tree limb growing out the side of the cliff. Clutching it tightly, he began crying for help. An angel appeared and offered assistance, asking, "Do you believe I can save you?" "Yes," the desperate man replied, "just get me down!" "Are you willing to do whatever I say?" the angel inquired further. "Yes!" the man responded impatiently. "Then...let go," instructed the angel. The man thought for a moment. "Is *anybody else* up there?"

Abraham is an example of one who "let go," believing in God's promise and power (Romans 4:21). Likewise, God desires that we "let go" of our own efforts to save ourselves, and trust the good news that God has already dealt conclusively with our sin through Jesus' death on the Cross (Romans 3:21-26).

LOOKING BACK:

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "relaxed abandonment?" Does a situation come to mind where you had to trust someone completely with your own well-being? How well did you do?

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Romans 4:4-5, 16-25

- 1. What difference does it make to you that being in right relationship with God is a gift to be received rather than a prize to be earned?*
- 2. Why do "religious" people (Romans 4:9-12) and "good" people (Romans 4:13-15) find this message so difficult to accept, and--at times--are even offended by it?*
- 3. Why is Abraham such a good example of a what it means to live by faith in God? What do you notice about the nature of faith in this passage (vss 18-23)?*
- 4. In what ways, like Abraham, have you experienced God's promise and power as you've stepped out in faith in a particular area?*
- 5. How does Abraham's example relate to the way in which we are to respond to the message of the cross (vss 23-25)?*

*PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS*