

## *Walking In Steps Of Faith*

“ . . . who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham . . . ” (Rom. 4:12).

I'm not what you would call a “snow person.” I don't hope for snow every time the weather man talks about the possibilities. I surely don't like to drive or travel in it. I love to watch it fall; I love to see it cover up man's messes; I love to look at it hanging on the trees; I love for my children and grandchildren to play in it. But after enjoying it for a few hours, I'm ready for it to melt and leave.

When I was boy I felt differently about snow. I couldn't wait to get out my sled and ride down the hill. I would stay out in it as long as possible and then go to my grandmother's and almost hug the stove. If the snow was deep, and it surely seemed deeper as a child, I would try to walk in the footprints that my dad had made in the snow. Sometimes I would fall attempting to reach his next footprint.

In the text before us, the Apostle Paul refers to this same idea. Abraham was not only justified by faith—he also lived by faith. We who are justified in Christ can walk in the steps of faith that characterized the patriarch's life. It is true; we may fall as we attempt to follow such a special example, but his footprints lead us on in the life of faith. Let's meditate on a few truths that are linked to the faith-life.

*To walk in steps of faith is to perceive the call of God!* Faith was generated in the heart of Abraham and he began to walk in steps of faith. Where did that faith originate? It is later declared in the Roman epistle, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Believing on Jesus is not the result of being persuaded by men; faith is created by the effectual call of God.

*To walk in steps of faith is to receive the righteousness of God!* It is clear that no one is “justified by works” (4:2). In an earlier verse, we are told that “Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (4:3). We do not venture to walk in faith, therefore, to become righteous or to be righteous; we walk in steps of faith because God has called us and His righteousness has been “imputed” to us (4:11).

*To walk in steps of faith is to believe the grace of God!* Righteousness was not imputed to Abraham because of circumcision. He believed God prior to circumcision and was justified by faith. He had nothing to cling to but God's grace. “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace” (4:16). When we realize that divine grace is our source, our sustenance, and our sufficiency, we are introduced to real faith and trust.