

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-18 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Romans 4:19, 20) 19 And although he did not grow weak in faith, he considered his own body, now as good as dead (since he was about 100 years old), as well as the deadness of the womb of Sarah. 20 But because of the promise of God, he did not waver in a lack of faith; but he became powerful by his faith, giving God glory

*** w01 7/1 p. 21 Do Not Let Doubts Destroy Your Faith ***

Do Not "Waver in a Lack of Faith"

Considering the circumstances of the patriarch Abraham, some may feel that he had legitimate grounds for doubt. It may appear quite reasonable to conclude that he was 'beyond hope of becoming the father of many nations'—despite God's promise. Why? Well, from a purely human point of view, things did not look promising. 'He considered his own body, now already deadened, and also the deadness of the womb of Sarah,' the Bible record says. Still, he resolutely refused to allow doubts about God and his promises to take root in his mind and heart. The apostle Paul writes: "He did not grow weak in faith," or "waver in a lack of faith." Abraham remained "fully convinced that what [God] had promised he was also able to do." (Romans 4:18-21) He had built a strong, personal, trusting relationship with Jehovah over many years. He rejected any doubts that might have weakened that relationship.

(Romans 5:4, 5) 4 endurance, in turn, an approved condition; the approved condition, in turn, hope, 5 and the hope does not lead to disappointment; because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy spirit, which was given to us.

*** w01 4/15 p. 29 Do You Remember? ***

• At Romans 5:3-5, why did the apostle Paul list hope at the end of a series?

Paul presented a series of things that Christians experience—tribulation, endurance, approved condition, and hope. This "hope" is not the initial hope that one gains from the Bible, but it is the strengthened, deepened, pervading hope that a Christian can gain over time.—12/15, pages 22-3.

*** w91 11/1 pp. 14-15 pars. 6-7 Running the Race With Endurance ***

6 Another sustaining power in our lives is the hope that God has set before us. As Paul put it: "Let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have gained our approach by faith into this undeserved kindness in which we now stand; and let us exult, based on hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but let us exult while in tribulations, since we know that tribulation produces endurance; endurance, in turn, an approved condition; the approved condition, in turn, hope, and the hope does not lead to disappointment."—Romans 5:1-5.

7 Tribulations in themselves are not joyous, yet the peaceable fruits that they yield afterward are. These fruits are endurance, an approved condition, hope, and the fulfillment of that hope. Endurance by us will lead to our receiving divine approval. When we have God's approval, we can confidently hope for the realization of the promises he has made. This hope holds us true to our course and buoys us up under tribulation until the hope is fulfilled.—2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

(Romans 6:12) 12 Therefore, do not let sin continue to rule as king in your mortal bodies so that you should obey their desires.

*** w16 December p. 10 par. 12 By Undeserved Kindness You Were Set Free ***

12 Now think of yourself in the light of Paul's words: "Do not let sin continue to rule as king in your mortal bodies so that you should obey their desires." (Rom. 6:12) We could "let sin continue to rule" by doing whatever our imperfect body moves us to do. Because we can "let" sin rule or refuse to let it rule, the question is, What do we really want at heart? Ask yourself: 'At times, do I let my imperfect body or mind point me in a bad direction and then go there? Or am I dead with reference to sin? Am I living with reference to God by Christ Jesus?' It really comes down to how much we appreciate the undeserved kindness God has shown by forgiving us.