

## Faith and Deeds Part 10

***“20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:20-24 KJV)***

We continue in this message to study about the faith and the deeds of Abram and how to apply those deeds and faith in our lives.

***“1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. 8 And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? 9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. 10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. 11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. 13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. 17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” (Genesis 15:1-21 KJV)***

***“1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” (Genesis 15:1 KJV)*** God came here to Abram and spoke to him His Word in a vision in order to encourage him. The meaning of ***“the word of the LORD came unto Abram”***, means that Jesus Himself the Living Word came to Abram. Vision is to see things while you are awake and fully aware, but a dream is when you are sleeping. Jesus here called Abram by his name and instructed him, ***“Fear not,***

***Abram:”*** Jesus here also cheered him up as He told him, ***“I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”*** Faith and deeds in God recommend on us that we need to keep ourselves steadfast and to continue to trust God in all situations that we might pass through. Here most likely God came to Abram, to reward him for his steadfast faith on God and to assure him that He did not forget him. ***\* In the same way we need to fully trust God and look positively forward on all the good things that the Lord had prepared for us. And as God is seeing us in steadfast faith toward Him, then He will come and visit us and encourage us with His divine Words, “Fear not, ..... : I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” \* This is also to remind us about the importance of reading God’s Word in our lives; that we need to read daily, and how much we need to treasure them with the rest of all His promises to us.***

***“Fear not, ..... : I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”***

***“Fear not”:*** Don’t be afraid that you lack certain things now, or you are alone, or you are a stranger, etc.

***“I am thy shield”:*** God is your shield and He will not let you troubled because of what you lack, instead He will be a shield of protection to you. When God said, ***“I am thy shield”***, it means even you may lack lot of things but such a lack will not make you a vulnerable person, but God shall fill you and make your life full and fruitful.

***“and thy exceeding great reward”:*** As you are faithful to God and willing to stand firm, then the Lord will be the one to reward you with a great reward. Truly God rewarded Abram and He will also reward us indeed.

***“2 And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?” (Genesis 15:2 KJV)*** Here Abram now had the courage to ask God what He will give to him as a reward, because until this time Abram had heard the promises of God but not yet received anything in regard to who will inherit him. Abram expressed to God his longing for a heir in such a way: ***“what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?”*** Abram told God frankly what he was now thinking that the steward of his house, Eliezer of Damascus was the only possible person who will inherit him. Abram may look as if he was in despair but such was not a hindrance for him to follow God. ***Faith in God does not prohibit us from opening our hearts and our longing and speak to God and express to Him. But we should not make a fuss with God and make it a condition on Him that we will not serve Him, and we will not go forward unless He will give us. I tell you, don’t do such, God will not go along such attitude. God wants you to believe His Word and fully trust Him. But of course you can express to God and speak to Him when situation is suitable about your longing and about your real needs.***

Abram continued to follow and serve God even he has no son. As well as God had blessed Abram with ***“Eliezer of Damascus”*** who was a faithful person to Abram, and he was the one that Abram finally sent to Mesopotamia to bring from there, Rebekah, the wife of Isaac, Abram’s son. See here that what that servant did became the instrument of God to build the new family of Isaac the son of Abram. ***Certain times we cannot see how what we have will help us to bring true what God had promised us therefore we need to continue to be patience, faithful, following God and obey Him.***

***“3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.” (Genesis 15:3 KJV)*** Abram expressed to God that he was desperately waiting for His promise to give him a seed, a child born from him to be a heir. Abram was looking for the next generation to come; for what He will do and contribute if he had no seed. Abram was looking for a child to continue the mission and walk with God as he was doing. **Therefore and in the same way we need to have the mind and looking to the future, that the next generation our children shall walk with God and serve Him.**

For us today we cannot say to God, ***“Behold, to me thou hast given no seed”***! Why? Because God had sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the seed, as we read, ***“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” (Galatians 3:16 KJV)*** Galatians 3:16 is like John 3:16 ***“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)*** Therefore as we receive Christ as Savior and Lord over our lives we go forward and bear fruit to God. We go forward and evangelize and tell people about Jesus and about His work on the cross and teach them the Word of God. We go forward with the seed of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and make new disciples and work with God to plant the new works of God.

***“4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.” (Genesis 15:4 KJV)*** Here again the Word of God, Jesus Christ, the Living Word came to Abram and assured him that ***“Eliezer of Damascus”*** will not be his heir, but that God shall give him a son from his own bowels and he shall be his heir. **In the same way God is assuring you today, that what He has promised to you He will sure fulfill it.** When it says ***“the word of the LORD came unto him”***, it means also reading the Word of God and praying at the feet of the Lord and having fellowship with the Lord will assure us that all the promises that God made with us He will fulfill in His due time as we continue to be faithful toward Him and His Word and His calling in our lives. **Be assured now, that the Lord shall fulfill all His promises to you, but you need to continue to persevere, and patiently walking with God as Abram did and to continue to serve Him and do His will and He will be the one to reward you.**

***“5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.” (Genesis 15:5 KJV)*** Here the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word, came to Abram and took him abroad out of his tent and made him look toward Heaven and assured him that his descendants will be numberless as the stars in Heaven. **God in the same way, will speak to you by His Word and assure you of the promises that He had made with you, as well as God shall speak to you in a similitude as He spoke to Abram about the number of his descendants will be numberless as the stars in Heaven.**

***“6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6 KJV)*** After what God spoke to Abram and confirmed to him His promise, Abram believed in the Lord and he was sure that God shall do to Him all what He had promised to him, and that considered as righteousness for Abram. **\* Many they have difficulties and struggled with God, because they cannot accept that God had promised them but had not yet given to them what He had promised. You find such people, sad, gloomy, backsliding, moving backward, reluctant and they are not willing to go forward and serve God because they had not yet received what**

**God had promised them. \* As true believers and followers of Christ you should have the same righteousness of Abram; that you accept and believe on what God had said even you have not receive it.**

***“7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.” (Genesis 15:7 KJV)*** Here the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word started to declare and to confirm to Abram that He will give him the land of Canaan for his inheritance. He told him, that He is the same Lord who brought him out of the city of Ur of the Chaldees, which is located today in the south of the country of Iraq, and will give him this land that he live on as an inheritance for him and for his descendents. **When we believe in God and start to follow Him, the Lord along our walk with Him will confirm to us every now and then what He had promised to give us. Why God will continue to do that for us? When He confirm things to us, He is keeping our faith on Him and that will help us to continue to follow Him and to continue to do His will and to continue to walk in the plan that He had for us. I have a confidence from the Lord in all what I am doing. And I usually answer those who are asking me about my ministry and what I am doing, I tell them that God told me to stay where I am and to continue to do what I need to do. Therefore as you continue to obey God and doing His will, then continue to stay where you are and continue to do His works and achieve His will.**

***“8 And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?” (Genesis 15:8 KJV)*** Here Abram asked the Lord how he will know and be sure that He will inherit that land and it will be for his descendents. **It is good to ask God because most of the time we don’t know how God will do it because it is either a difficult matter or it is beyond our imagination.** Mary when the angel told her that she will be conceived and give birth to Jesus, she asked the angel this question: ***“34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34 KJV)*** She asked of how this will happen to her because she has no husband. Then the angel explained it to her how it will happen by the Holy Spirit: ***“35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35 KJV)***

***“9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” (Genesis 15:9 KJV)*** Here the Lord started to explain to Abram how this will happen. He asked him to bring to Him offerings of animals, heifer, goat, ram and a dove to offer them to God.

***“10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.” (Genesis 15:10 KJV)*** Abram obeyed God and brought these animals to offer to God and divided them in the middle, except the birds, and put the pieces one against another. Abram protected these offerings of him to God that he did not allow the fowls of the air to come and take the carcasses, ***“11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.” (Genesis 15:11 KJV)*** His action showed that as if he was using his own strength to let the things come true. **Many times when God is promising you certain things, then you find yourself working hard to accomplish that by your own power. That will not accomplish the things that God had promised but faith on Him will make that come true.**

***“12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.” (Genesis 15:12 KJV)*** Toward the sunset, God allowed Abram to go into deep sleep, that he no more was able to drive away the fowls from reaching what he offered to God, and horror and darkness fell upon Abram; **and that what you feel when you are pondering on what God promised you but nothing is accomplishing and you are feeling exhausted, and in distress and in despair and you are wondering how things will go and how what God had promised you will be accomplished.** Here the Lord while Abram was in that situation spoke to Abram explaining to him of how this will happen:

***“13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;” (Genesis 15:13 KJV)*** God told him that his descendents shall pass through dark and horrible time, and they will be strangers in a land that is not for them, and they shall be slaves and serve others in that land and they shall be afflicted for long years in that situation. God also told him that He will judge and punish that nation of what they will do to his descendants and then his descendents will come out from that nation with great plunder. ***“14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.” (Genesis 15:14 KJV)*** We know that God fulfilled that when he brought Jacob and his family into Egypt and stayed there for long years, where they greatly multiplied and later came out from Egypt with great plunder and how God brought His judgment on the Egyptians.

***“15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.” (Genesis 15:15 KJV)*** God promised Abram that he will not witness all such events, that will happen after his death, and that he will live a good old age and will be gathered to his fathers in peace, means he will be among the people of God. You see here how long Abram needed to wait for until what God had promised him to be accomplished. What God promised him will be accomplished after his death. **In the same way, it might be what God had promised you be accomplished after you being dead. That is why you need to be always patience and trusting God that He will accomplish what He had promised.**

***“16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” (Genesis 15:16 KJV)*** God further explained to Abram why they need to wait for long years, because God will be waiting for the sin of the Amorites to reach to the full before He will judge them and turn their land to the descendents of Abram. **You see here how faith in God is very important so we can wait and be convinced of the ways of God and how He will move and do things on His time to bless us.**

***“17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.” (Genesis 15:17 KJV)*** God accepted Abram and what he offered to Him in faith, and when the darkness came, the Lord walked as ***“a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces”***, and God confirmed His covenant with Abram, ***“18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” (Genesis 15:18-21 KJV)*** **The covenant that God did with Abram was a covenant of blood, that same now the covenant of God with us is a covenant of blood through the blood of Jesus His son whom He offered for us on the cross**

**for the forgiveness of our sins and to give eternal life to everyone who believe and follow Him, His Word and Jesus Christ our Lord.**

God promised Abram that He will give His descendents the land which extend from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates which was inhabited by the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaims, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. **In the same way through Jesus Christ our Lord, God promised us eternal life and He commissioned us to go and make disciples, to go and evangelize to all nations, “15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16 KJV) “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV)**

***My dear and beloved:*** Faith and deeds as the faith and deeds of Abram is to have full trust on God that He will enable us as a church to go and reach all nations, preaching to them, discipling them, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all what Jesus commanded us, and we should have faith that the mission works of God will continue and will spread even after us. God will continue watch over His work to be accomplished and on His Word to be fulfilled.

The time for you now to come fully to the Lord; to stop all your doubts, all your negative thinking, and start to trust God that He will do all what He had promised you. Such a step of faith is a very essential one in your life so that you no more based your faith on what you receive but on what God had said unto you, and with such you can go forward to serve Him and follow Him.

Come now to the Lord and make your covenant with God to come and serve Him and to do His works while we are waiting for Jesus to come and take us to Heaven.

Let us pray . . . .

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that encouraged me, motivated me and assured me once again about all your promises to me are true. Lord thank you for increasing my faith and my trust in you, and thank you for preparing me for your coming. I fully trust you Lord who told me ***“Fear not, ..... : I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”***

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your doubts, your negative and pessimistic thoughts and your lack of faith. Confess and renounce your lack of commitment and your non willingness to serve God. Confess your lack of reading God’s Word and the life of prayer.

Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned in this message to believe in you and what you promised me in your Word, and to start to serve you.*

*Lord I want to ask you how your promise to me will be fulfilled, Lord explain to me*

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*Lord I commit myself to start to serve you and do the work of yours that you asked me to do. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, faith, self-control and long-suffering that people will see Jesus in my life. Lord I commit myself to be a good example to others around me, to my family and to my children and descendents that I will follow you and do your works and your will.*

*Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who returned to you with faith and confidence and committed their lives to serve you and live their lives according to your will. Lord restore them fully, explain to them and answer their Godly questions so their faith will increase and will continue to keep their commitment and service unto you and bear the fruits that you desire to see in their lives. Lord continue to visit them, protect them and provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.*

*Lord help us as a church to stand firm in faith, trusting you that you will continue to lead us into victories and you will perfect us and you are going to fulfill all what you promised to us and will prepare us to take us with you at your coming. Lord we trust you that you will continue to protect us and to provide for us. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Faith and Deeds Part 10. James 2:20-24. Genesis 15:1-21. Galatians 3:16. John 3:16. Luke 1:34-35. Mark 16:15-16. Matthew 28:18-20.

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