

Faith

“1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. 15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” (Genesis 22:1-18 KJV)

Abraham is often called the father of faith. Abraham was called by God to leave his home in the country of Ur to go to a land he did not know. Abraham believed what God told him and went. Abraham's faith was tested in many ways, but one of the most important tests the one that is recorded in *Genesis 22* as we had read where Abraham was told by God to take his own son, Isaac, and to sacrifice him on Mount Moriah. Abraham was obedient, believing that God was able to raise him from the dead as we read, *“17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” (Hebrews 11:17-19 KJV)* But as he was willing to sacrifice his son, God stopped him from sacrificing Isaac and provided a ram, caught in the thicket, to be sacrificed instead. Abraham remains an example for us of what faith means. *Romans 4:16* says, *“16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to*

that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,”

What is faith? *Hebrews 11:1* says, *“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* * There is a difference between faith and hope. Hope is always directed towards the future, but faith is established in the present. * Hope is an expectancy concerning things to come, but faith is a substance and confidence of something real that is already possessed by the person who believes. * Faith is not based on what is seen and felt with the physical senses, but it is based on eternal, invisible truths revealed in God's Word. Even if we don't yet see the things, we believe God for and trust his promises.

To live and achieve good things you need power and resources as a back up to do that. People they commonly depend on what they see around them; they use their senses to measure the things available at their hands. But that is not faith in God! Faith in God is to be certain of things even we do not see.

We see around us great things; high mountains, big falls, great seas and oceans, and sky with all the stars and galaxies. Those are great objects but God is greater than all; He is Almighty God. He is the one who created all those things. *Therefore our faith should not be based on what we see but on the unseen, the Great Almighty God, The Creator of Heaven and earth. “18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18 KJV)* Therefore to live victoriously and to do great things we need to have faith in God who can do great things for us. To every one of us God has given a measure of faith and by this faith we live not depending on the physical things that we see. What we see is temporary, non-sufficient, of limited power, and after all is inadequate. Therefore we follow what God's Word says, *“7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV)*

The Lord God gave us His One and only Son the Lord Jesus Christ, *“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)* Christ came to save us. He suffered and died for our sins on the cross. He died for us to give us eternal life and to live a life and live it to the full. Therefore, *“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)* Faith is to fix our eyes on Jesus. Our faith will grow if we fix our eyes on Jesus and not on difficulties, trials, or unfavorable circumstances; because if we look and concentrate on such things our faith will be weakened and cannot stand in those events and we will sink down. But when we fix our eyes on Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith we will be lifted up and would be able to overcome trials and achieve great things for God in our lives.

Against faith is doubt that will undermine our faith and hinder us from receiving God's blessings. One time the Lord was walking on the water and Peter asked Him. *“28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matthew 14:28-*

31 *KJV*) Although it is impossible to walk on the water but Peter was able to do it because the Lord had said it to Him. But when he looked to the wind, he was afraid and he started to sink down. The wind made him doubt, and doubt weakened his faith and led him to fall, but thanks be to the Lord He was there to help him. **Therefore when we fix our eyes on Jesus and on His power we are lifted up, but when we focus on other things we will fall down.**

Faith is to trust God and to be certain of what we do not see. We need to trust God and His Word even if you do not see. Let us read this event in the Bible that speaks about what happened after Jesus resurrection from the death and His appearance to His disciples. *“24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”* (John 20:24-29 *KJV*) Yes, that is true, *“blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”* Doubts tears faith and makes us unable to receive God’s blessings. **When anyone pray and ask God for something he should not doubt.** The Word of God tells us the following about the one who ask God for something and still there is doubt in his heart, *“6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”* (James 1:6-8 *KJV*) Doubt in the mind of man blocks God’s blessings to him.

Returning to Abraham, in *Romans 4* we find Paul referring to Abraham’s faith. *“13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: 15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”* (Romans 4:13-25 *KJV*) Abraham heard the Word of God. God told him in verse 13, *“that he should be the heir of the world,”* therefore Abraham turned from his hopeless

condition as we read in verse 19, *“19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb:”* Abraham’s body was as good as dead, *“when he was about an hundred years old”*, he was too old to have children, but he embraced the hope expressed in God’s promise to him in verse 18, *“18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.”* God told him he would be *“the father of many nations”*. Abraham didn’t waver in his commitment to God as we read in verse 20, *“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief”*, instead being strong in faith he rejoiced in the Word as accomplished fact, therefore Abraham *“was strong in faith, giving glory to God”*.

Abraham accepted God’s promises as true. He refused to accept the testimony of his senses when it did not agree with the statement of God. He held fast to the promise of God and his senses and physical experience were brought into line with his faith. The things he believed became a reality; because Abraham trusted in God, he was able to go ahead with God’s command to sacrifice his son. Isaac. This is trust and not just fanaticism, because in *Genesis 12* God’s Word tells us that God had promised Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed, *“3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* (Genesis 12:3 *KJV*)

What about us today? The Bible says in *1 Corinthians 1:21*, *“21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”* **We believed in the preaching of God’s Word and we are saved.** *Ephesians 2:8* says, *“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”* **Like Abraham we are called to trust in God even when what He has promised seems impossible.** Let us now look at what faith is not:

1. **Faith is not a leap into the dark.** Abraham did not leap into the dark but knew that God would accomplish His promise of making him a father of many nations.
2. **Faith is not a supposition.** Abraham did not assume that God would accomplish His promise, but knew that since God had already promised, He would fulfill His promise.
3. **Faith is not an opinion or hypothesis.** Abraham did not move based on an opinion, but on what God had promised him.

The question now, why do we need faith?

1. **Faith leads us to God.** *“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 *KJV*) **By faith that we are saved but even faith is the gift of God. Otherwise someone might boast, but since we are not even able to believe unless God gives us the faith, we know that it is all God’s grace. Our part, then, is to have faith in God’s grace which is ours in the saving act of Christ’s death and resurrection for us.**

2. **We need faith to interact with God.** Abraham interacted with God because he continued to believe. *Hebrews 11:6* says, *“6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that*

cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

3. Faith is needed to obey God. Abraham believed in God. That is why he was able to obey God. **There can never be obedience if we cannot trust God.** In **Genesis 22:8** the words uttered by Abraham shows that he truly believed God would do something, **“8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”**

What is the source of our faith? **We read in Ephesians 2:8-9, that God is the source of our faith. He gives us faith as a gift from Him. He gives us our faith through Jesus, His Son. Hebrews 12:2** calls Jesus the **“author and finisher of our faith”**. **After we received life in Jesus, faith comes from hearing the message, “17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17 KJV)** God gives us faith, then, both through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and through the written Word that we read in the Bible our faith would be strengthened and would increase on relying confidently on the Word of God that we listen. **Therefore we read the Bible and listen to the Word of God so that our faith will be supported and build up.**

What are the objects of our faith? Is to have faith in God. **“22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.” (Mark 11:22 KJV)** Jesus told His disciples to **“Have faith in God.” “4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,” (Colossians 1:4 KJV)** Paul praises the Colossians for their **“faith in Christ Jesus.” “31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:31 KJV)** Paul and Silas told the jailor to believe in Jesus so he and his household would be saved.

We place our faith in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Abraham’s faith was not on the Words of God alone, but on God himself.

What are the results of faith?

- 1. Redemption.** **Ephesians 2:8** tells us that it is by grace we are saved through faith.
- 2. Justification.** **Romans 5:1** says we have been justified by faith. **“1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1 KJV)**
- 3. Adoption.** **Galatians 3:26** says we are all children of God through faith in Jesus. **“26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26 KJV)**
- 4. Sanctification.** **Acts 26:18** describes why the disciples were being sent to proclaim the gospel, so that people may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith. **“18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” (Acts 26:18 KJV)**

My dear and beloved: * In conclusion faith is trusting and obeying God. Faith is necessary for us to receive God’s work of salvation and to interact with God and continue on with our Christian life. * Faith makes us something that others did not think was possible. You may have a testimony for that. * Faith can transform your life. Great faith can distinguishes you from others and makes others follow your example of faith in following God.

Now we can come to God and we can ask him, **“Increase our faith”**. As well as you can tell Him, **“Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”** **God can do great things; miracles, healing, wonders and things we never think or imagine but we need to have faith to receive, “37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.” (Luke 1:37 KJV)** Let us pray . . .

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the encouraging message that I received from you, for I know that you Jesus had died for my sins on the cross so I would enjoy a life and life to the full in your presence. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.*

Repent and renounce from all your sins. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God and on His Word and promises. Repent of your doubts and being double minded. Repent that you want to see before you believe. Repent of your non willingness to give your life, your heart, your firstfruits to God, and whatever He is asking you to give. Repent of your old and previous religion and tradition. Repent of doing your own will and not the will of God in your life. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible. Repent of your yoke with the non believers, with many friends, and with the Media, News and games. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to come out from my previous religion and old tradition. Lord increase my faith in you and in your Word. Lord I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief. Help me overcome doubts so I can receive what you have promised me. Lord Jesus I fix my eyes on you, the author and the finisher of my faith, and I trust you fully that you will enable me to overcome all the following trials _____ . Lord I commit my life and my cause into your hand. O Lord build me up and guide me and nurture me to have a true and genuine faith in order for me to live a life pleasant to you. Lord I commit myself to go on and serve you and follow your plan and will in my life. Thank you Lord this is all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins and had committed their lives to serve you; to live by faith in you and to follow your will and the good plan that you have for them. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord do wonders and miracles in their lives, solve their problems and continue to guide them so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people. Lord we commit ourselves to live by faith and follow the style of life that you ordained for us to follow. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come to take us. 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.

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