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Principles Of Faith #5 - Faithfulness Of God

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In learning to develop a strong faith, Abraham is the example used regarding the faithfulness of God. Abraham staggered not at the promise of God, for he was fully persuaded that God would bring to pass that promise.

Rom 4:19-20 "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;" KJV

The New Testament shows Abraham as a great man of faith, however, the Old Testament shows God's faithfulness, working with an individual to bring to pass what He had promised. God's faithfulness in our lives to bring to pass promises is the same. He is not waiting for us to mess up, in order that He can take away from us what has been promised. God is doing everything on His part in order to get us to cooperate with Him so He can bring to pass what has been promised.

Phil 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" KJV

Sometimes as we get older in life, disobedience has taken hold in our lives causing us to reject God's plan; however, God's plan for us has not changed. If we have had a call on our lives and have been disobedient to that call, that does not change the fact the call is there.

Rom 11:29 "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." KJV

God never takes back or changes His mind in regards to a call that might have been placed on our life.

Rom 11:29 "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." KJV

1 Thess 5:24 "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." KJV

Hebrews and Timothy also tell us about the faithfulness of God. Unbelief doesn't nullify the faithfulness of God. God cannot deny Himself.

The promised was given to Abraham, while his name was still Abram and was given to him by faith totally separate from works. After the promise was given and Abraham believed, then the seal of the covenant or circumcision where blood was shed was given. Abraham simply had to believe in what seemed to be an impossible situation. Abraham believed on what was promised.

Rom 4:18 *"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."* KJV

We were given a measure of the God kind of faith when we were born again. It is not something that we are struggling to get, it was given to us. As we begin to hear the Word of God, the faith awakens by the message that it hears. As the faith begins to grow, we just begin to believe what God has said will come to pass regardless of circumstances.

Abraham was handpicked by God. Abraham had strong faith, but it took 24 years for that faith to develop into strong faith.

Gen 12:1-5 *"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 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. 4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." KJV*

In Galatians the third chapter we learn that through Jesus that we become inheritors of the same inheritance that was given to Abraham.

Sometimes we find that we want to give up on people, but God never does. His faithfulness is forever.

Starting in Genesis 12, we see that God began to deal with Abraham, telling him what he needed to do, how God intended to bless him, what the future had in store for him and his family. He was told to get up and go faith always has action. Leave his father's house, leave all his family, take only his wife, but Abraham failed to heed God's word completely, taking his nephew along with him. This later caused problems with the two families. God would at times appear to Abraham and assure him that He had not changed his mind and would encourage him about the outcome and the promise which was to have a son by his wife Sarah. Continue to read the twelfth chapter of Genesis to get the story of his life. Abraham made mistakes during the years, going into Egypt during a famine, lying to the Pharaoh

regarding Sarah being his sister. Abraham was concerned about his life and ask Sarah to lie for him.

Gen 12:5 *"And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."* KJV

Gen 12:14 *"When Abram arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians took one look and saw that his wife was stunningly beautiful. Pharaoh's princes raved over her to Pharaoh. She was taken to live with Pharaoh."* Message

Gen 12:14 *"And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair."* KJV

God intervened in the situation with Sarah and her being in the Pharaohs house, causing all his household is to barren for a time. Pharaoh confronts Abraham, wanting to know why he had lied, but gives him many riches before he left Egypt.

What God has blessed cannot be cursed. What looked like a tragic mistake God turned around.

When we take a gigantic step of faith, it pleases God. Our obedience taken with a step of faith when God calls us becomes it easier than when we first started.

Heb 11:6 *"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."* KJV

Because Abraham lied, did God write him off? God just keeps working with him, because He has a plan and a purpose for him. Reading in chapter 13 of Genesis we find that Lot and Abraham had to go their separate ways. This was the obedience that should have been done earlier when God told him to leave his country.

Gen 15:1 *"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."* KJV

Gen 15:1 *"After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great."* Amp

Compensation means to offset the effects of an error and to make up for loss or weakness of an individual.

God appeared again to Abraham and reminded him of the promise. God wants to reward him and not punish him. This shows a part of God's grace to Abraham. Continue reading Genesis 15, 16 and 17 where Abraham and Sarah decided to help God out, allowing her handmaiden to bear a child and from that Ishmael was born.

God shows him the stars, stating that his children would be innumerable as the stars, the making of covenant by circumcision, seeing into the future regarding his descendents and their future captivity and deliverance. The changing of their names from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah. Abram meaning "high father" to Abraham meaning "father of nations" Sarai means "princess", Sarah means "mother of nations"

Sarah still had not had a child, but Hebrews chapter 11 tells us that she judged God to be faithful.

Abraham was still believing God for the promise, even though there were silent years from the age of 75 until 99. God appears to Abraham as "el shaddai" the God of more than enough, the almighty God, the strong one, the breasty one. I can take care of you, your needs will be met.

Our God is more than enough. God gets involved in our lives, to bring to pass what He has promised us. Abundance, ability and grace from a God that is more than enough for us. God supernaturally gets involved with Abraham and with us.

Rom 4:19-21 "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." KJV

Abraham and Sarah begin to speak out of their mouths what God has said to them. Many times we as believers fail to speak out what God has said to us. Circumstances will try to make us believe that it is too late to do anything. Nothing is too hard for God. Within one year's time, when they begin to say what God had said about them. They had the promise of the birth of Isaac. Continue to read Genesis 18 through 21.

Rom 4:18 "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." KJV

It is not what we do that is right, but is a matter of the heart that causes God to bless us. Read Matthew 23, tells us about how outside we look great, but inside we are a mess.

1 Thess 5:24 " Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." KJV

Phil 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" KJV

God is faithful, what He has promised He will do. Begin to know God as El Shaddai.

New Testament - strong faith; Old Testament - faithfulness of God