



FAITH IN GOD FOR THE PROMISES

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Bible Study – 6-26-2025

Characteristics of Faith Exemplified by Abraham

Abraham is often referred to as the "father of faith" due to his profound trust and obedience to God. This title reflects his pivotal role in the covenantal relationship between God and His people, both natural and spiritual. His unwavering belief in God's promises, particularly regarding the birth of his son Isaac and his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, exemplifies the faith that is credited to him as righteousness.

1. FAITH IN GOD CALLS INTO EXISTENCE WHAT HAS NOT MANIFESTED IN THE NATURAL

If you can't see it or if you don't have it in your possession, you have to exercise faith for it.

Romans 4:17 NKJV - (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

God was speaking to Abraham about being the father of nations when Abraham didn't have a child. God always speaks in **Ephesians 3:20** language - **exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think.**

I have made you - past tense - God declares the end from the beginning. In other words, we're often reviewing things from the beginning stages of the project and God is speaking to us about the finished product.

"As it is written" - Faith always speaks what is written. In Matthew 4 and Luke 4, Jesus defeated the devil by declaring what was written in the Word of God. He spoke the Word only, no debate, no reasoning. We need to get to know the Word so we can speak the Word.

who gives life to the dead - Dead is defined as that which ceases to be active or operational.

If it's inactive and nonoperational, apply the Word of God to it.

Hebrews 4:12 NIV - 12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

calls those things which do not exist as though they did; -

KJV - calleth those things which be not as though they were.

NIV - calls into being things that were not.

ERV - speaks of things that don't yet exist as if they are real.

AMP - calls into being that which does not exist.

God considers His future promises as though they have already been fulfilled.

The thing that "be not" was Sarah's barren womb. What's your "be not?"

Barren means she was unable to produce offspring. There was no fertile ground for Abraham's seed, so to speak. We know Abraham still had fertile seed because he impregnated Hagar.

What's worse than not having fertile ground is having fertile ground but not being willing to sow the seed.

The Bible is our main promise book.

There are things God has declared concerning you before you were born. Seek Him to see what He has said.

Psalm 139:16 NKJV - 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned (*appointed AMP*) for me, when as yet there were none of them.

Faith speaks as a reality what God has spoken will to come to pass. When God speaks, it's as good as done.

Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV - 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

When we speak the Word of God, we are speaking what He has spoken that is destined to produce the desire and the purpose He designated.

2. FAITH IN GOD MAINTAINS EXPECTATION FOR MANIFESTATION OF WHAT GOD HAS SAID IN SEEMINGLY HOPELESS SITUATIONS

Romans 4:18 - 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

contrary to hope, in hope believed - Having hope when there seems to be no hope means you have a situation where you continue to hold onto hope even when there seems to be no reason for optimism. It seems that the odds are stacked against you, but even though this may be the case, you refuse to give up hope.

Abraham believed in hope despite having no natural or rational grounds for hope.

How do I know I've lost my expectation? When you're no longer talking about it. What you believe in your heart is going to come out of your mouth.

Hebrews 10:23 NKJV - 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Faith trusts in God's power and faithfulness, even when the circumstances look hopeless.

Abraham's faith did not mean that he did nothing and just waited for God to create a child in Sarah's womb. This was not going to be by an immaculate conception. Abraham and Sarah had to do their part in marital relations and trust God for a miraculous result. Faith does not mean doing nothing, but doing everything we can do with trust and reliance on God.

You know your expectation is still active when you're motivated to move forward. You're not letting your

dream, your expectations, die on the vine.

Abraham did not believe that circumstances could make God's promises impossible. He believed that God would use them for His glory.

Matthew 19:26 NIV - 26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”