

Title: leap of faith III – waiting upon the Lord
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Authentic faith:

Authentic faith does not deny the obstacle at hand, but declares that God is greater than the obstacle. Faith does not deny that a sickness is in the body, but declares Jesus' ability to heal the body (Mark 5:23). Faith does not deny financial need, but acknowledges Jesus' ability to meet our needs (Matt 17:24-27)

God's promise to Abraham

Genesis 12:2-3

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 15:5

Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

What was obstacles in the way of this promise?

- Both Abraham & Sarah was well advanced in years. Sarah was barren. God has given Abraham this impossible promise.

What do we do in the time between a seemingly impossible promise and the fulfilment of that promise?

Impatience - Wrong way

Hagar & Ismael – **Genesis 16**

- We should not become impatient
- We should not try to help God
- We need to trust God for His timing, His way

Waiting - Right way

Micah 7:7

Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

Isaiah 64:4

For since the beginning of the world *Men* have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

How did Abraham wait upon God?

Romans 4:20-21

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Through nearly 10 years of waiting for fulfilment of a seemingly impossible promise, Abraham's faith, rather than growing weak, grew stronger, while he continued to give glory to God.

Continue with the story

- Sarah was 90 en Isaac was born, Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born

- Isaac was still unmarried at 40! His wife, Rebecca was also barren and she only conceived after Isaac pleaded for his wife with the Lord – Gen 25:21
- Rebecca had twins – Jacob and Esau. Jacob's wife, Rachel, was also barren, only had a child long after she was married to Jacob. Her first boy was Joseph and if Joseph was not born, the whole nation of Israel would have died because of the 7 years of famine...

For 3 generations they had to fight for this promise that God gave to Abraham.

Abraham was tested in the area of the promise that God gave him. You will be tested in the area of your promise.

The focus of faith is knowing in whom we believe, not merely what we believe. Faith is more than understanding a particular promise – faith is knowing Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith; focusing on the Person behind the promise more than the promise itself.

How do we wait upon the Lord? We exercise our faith.

1. Romans 10:17

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Confess, memorise, meditate on scripture.

FEAR

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

FINANCES

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus

UNKNOWN (new job, new town, new relationship, new position, new baby, new teachers, new subjects)

Psalms 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SICKNESS

Psalms 103:2-3

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

The word of God is living and powerful and it stirs faith in our hearts.

2. Praying in the Holy Spirit

Jude 20

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit”