



Title: The heavenly man V – a heavenly perspective
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Hebrews 10:35&36 "Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

It is God's will that we should walk by faith and not by sight, not by feelings. God WANTS us to trust in Him.

The will of God

Hebrews 11:6

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Faith

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 finisher of our faith; focusing the **Person** behind the promise more than the promise itself. Faith is the outflow of a continual walk with Jesus, knowing Him - in whom we believe.

Our faith will be tested in the exact area of the promises of God. We have to believe that He who promised is faithful.

The promise to Abraham:

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"

Have you ever noticed how this promised was tested?

Sarah was barren. **Rebekah** was barren - Genesis 25:21 "Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived."

Rachel was barren - Genesis 29:31 "When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren."

What does this mean to us? When we are waiting for a promise to be fulfilled, we can't give up that easily! When our promises are tested by circumstances or time, it is crucial that we know that God is faithful! That means He will always remain loyal and steadfast.

God's faithfulness

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 11:11 (NIV)

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children, because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

Genesis 18:10-14a

And He said, "... and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself... And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying "Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?" Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Somewhere between Sarah's doubt and conceiving a child, she considered Him faithful who had promised.

Proverbs 13:12 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life"
A sick heart is a depressed heart, a heavy heart.

How do we keep our hearts from becoming sick when hope is deferred for a long time? How do we stay joyful?

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things – *Kay Warren*

Practically:

Psalm 37:3, 4, 7

3 **Trust** (lean on, rely on and be confident) in the Lord and **do good**; **Dwell** in the land and **feed** on His **faithfulness**. 4 **Delight** yourself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart. 7 **Be still** and **rest** in the Lord and **wait patiently** for Him.

1. Feed on God's faithfulness

1a. Remind yourself of all the times in the past when you experienced God's faithfulness. We have to build memorials.

1b. Write down God's promises and meditate on them often.

2. Thanksgiving (Delight yourself in the Lord)

2a. Focus on what you have and not on what you don't have. Focus on what God is doing and has done and not on what He is not doing.

2b. Ask God for His perspective over the situation

Finding God's perspective in trials: **Genesis 50:20** "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

3. Actively wait upon the Lord

Isaiah 64:4 "For since the beginning of the world, men have not heard, or perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him."

Psalm 27:13&14 "**I would have lost heart**, unless I had believed that I would see the **goodness of the Lord** in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart. "

How do we wait upon the Lord? We get the right confession in our mouths and in our hearts.

4. Make war against the spirit of despair, self-pity & envy

How? We focus away from ourselves and we do good to others. While you are waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled, you can make a difference in someone else's life.