



# **FAITH FACTOR**

S E R M O N G U I D E

**The Faith Factor**

*Genesis 15:7-21*

**INTRODUCTION**

If you and I are ever to succeed in life, or do what God wants us to do, it will require faith. We have heard it our whole lives, but it really is faith that is going to lead you to the depths God desires for you. It will grow you in ways you never imagined. But in order to get the proof you need, you have to have faith. There is no way around it. It was God's intent from the beginning. Abraham was called the "father of faith" because faith is both the difference maker and the deal breaker when it comes to our walk with the Lord. Our faith is the foundation on which our relationship with God is built. So today, we're going to look at two things we discover about faith from reading God's Word, and particularly, the story of Abram.

**KEY POINTS**

**1. Faith Sparks The Delight Of God**

When reading the dialogue between God and Abram in Genesis 15:7-21, it is clear that God was absolutely thrilled that despite the difficulties and divine delays, Abram was not giving up, walking away, or throwing in the towel on God. You might be familiar with the book, "The 5 love languages," the text shows us that faith is God's love language.

What communicates to God that we love Him is when we trust Him. It demonstrates to Him and to others that we trust what He promised and that we believe He will perform it. The same way that God does not forget the sparrow and can number the hairs on our heads as Jesus said in Luke 12:6-7, so does the Lord remember, and honor, and value those who love Him.

God is so honored by our faith that Hebrews 11 tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God, that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We know how essential prayer is for our spiritual lives, but as essential as prayer is, it does not work until you apply faith.

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**2. Faith Demands Greater Sacrifice**

In Genesis 15, the Lord tells Abram that sign of faith should be a sacrifice of giving. God wanted Abram to bring a sacrifice to teach him that we cannot truly worship God without having made a real and personal sacrifice to God.

Faith should prompt us to go and get something— something of value, something of worth, something for which we have worked, something we might need, or something we have taken care of, and bring it before the Lord, offering it to God as a sacrifice. Because God requires Abram to go and retrieve these animals, to prepare them to be offered to God, and to kill them, He suggests that when we give to God, it should not be incidental or accidental, but intentional.

Abram did not bring God what he wanted to give him. He did not give the Lord his leftovers. He brought before Him the very thing God commanded him to give. When it comes to demonstrating our faith, it should include the act of sacrificial and intentional giving.

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# No Limits with Pastor Delman

## **The Faith Factor**

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How does it make you feel to know that God is delighted by your faith?
2. Has there been a time when God asked you to sacrifice something out of faith? How did you respond?
3. How would you describe the relationship between faith and trust?

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