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INTO YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES

8 – Keep the Faith - Abraham's Calling

God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9 NLT

Here some notable facts about Abraham:

- Abraham was born “Abram” in the land of the Chaldeans in the community of Ur (Genesis 11:31).
- His father was Terah, and his 8th great-grandfather was Noah. Abraham would have been 54 years old when Noah died at 950 years of age (Genesis 9:29).
- Abraham's wife, Sarai had not been able to have children before God's call on their lives (Genesis 11:30).
- Abraham received his Godly identity in this world when he was 99 years old. At that time, he was circumcised, and the Lord changed his name from Abram, meaning “*exalted father*”, to Abraham, which translates to “*father of many*” (Genesis 17:5).
- God gave Sarai a new name, Sarah (Genesis 17:15). By adding a different ending to Sarai's name, she goes from being “*my princess*” to “*a princess for many.*”

Abraham was the pioneer of faith in God.

At the age of 75, this man received God's call and pursued a life of faith that still seems amazing. He left everything that was familiar to him, and he and his wife started over! He brought his nephew, Lot with him on the journey.

Where would he end up?

Only God knew.

Why should he go?

Because God promised that he would be the one through whom all peoples on earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

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To whom do you place your trust? And to what degree?

Sarai's inability to conceive and give birth did not stop this man of faith. **He demonstrated his great trust in God** by moving into uncharted territory **with only one guarantee in hand** – that ***God would be with him.***

Abraham was going to spend the rest of his life learning one very important lesson:

THE BIG IDEA:

FOLLOWING GOD DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED. HOWEVER, NEGLECTING TO FOLLOW GOD COMPLICATES LIFE. (CHUCK SWINDOLL, LIVING INSIGHTS BIBLE, P. 24)

Living out our trust in Jesus is proof of our faith.

The text in Genesis 13 and 14 demonstrates Abraham's desire to walk with God and that having this desire is the only way to receive the TRUE blessing. The key word here is - **demonstrates** – definition: "actions or processes of showing the truth of something **by giving evidence**" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/demonstration>).

According to **Hebrews 11:1** "faith is the **certainty** of things hoped for, **a proof** of things not seen." (NASB).

Our faith in God Most High develops other disciplines:

1st Abraham prioritized prayer and worship

Abraham built four alters to the Lord during his journey of faith. It seems they were built in connection with his praise and guidance along his way of getting to know God and His blessing for him and his family.

Worship was the centerpiece of Abraham's life.

Here we read about his return to his first alter at Bethel.

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Genesis 13:1-4 NIV

So, Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. ² Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

³ From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier ⁴ and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Even his wealth was not taken for granted and was considered from the hand of God Most High, the Creator of the Earth.

He “called on the name of the Lord.”

Abraham knew that his mission was not his own and that God was the provider for all things.

2nd Abraham demonstrated selflessness

Considering the need to part ways for the well-being of their livestock, Abraham gave Lot his choice of direction and land on which to make his dwelling.

So, Lot chose the land surrounding the Jordan river, near Sodom.

Genesis 13:10-18 NIV

¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan ... was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east.

¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³ Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵ All the land

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that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

¹⁸ So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.

Abraham was generous and considerate.

Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

3rd Abraham willingly sacrificed for others

After Lot had moved to Sodom a rebellion arose against the king of the region. When Abraham heard that Lot had been captured and taken away by the foreign kings, he could have reacted with indifference or out of a critical spirit.

Instead, Abraham gathered troops as soon as he heard the news and traveled off to rescue him and his property. He won the battle by having faith in God.

Genesis 14:16 NIV

¹⁶ He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Abraham and his 318 warriors were able to win a battle that five other allied kings and all their resources could not. Do you think God was in this battle? I definitely do!

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The Lord sent the king of Salem (the ancient Jerusalem), Melchizedek, who was acting in accordance with tradition as a high priest of the God Most High.

His responsibility was to affirm Abraham as blessed by God and to remind Abraham Who is responsible for the victory,

Genesis 14:19-20

*“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

*²⁰ And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”*

When the battle was over the king of Sodom offered riches from his land, but

- Abram refused the extreme generosity of the king.
- Abraham wanted his supply to be only from God to give God the praise and place in his provision

4th Abraham’s Faith was based on God’s Supreme Faithfulness

It all starts with commitment and moves through our lives with conviction and loyalty.

Genesis 14:21-24a NIV

²¹ The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ ²⁴ I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me.

Abraham’s head servant understood the faithfulness of God.

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Genesis 24:27 NIV

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master.”

Paul says to the church, that...

1 Thessalonians 5:24 *“He Who calls you is faithful.”*

And He has called us to faith living through Christ Jesus our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 NLT

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control.”