

ABRAHAM

Promise and Assurance

Craig Smith • July 8, 2018

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” (Gen. 15:1)

One of the hardest parts of walking by faith is waiting on God...

But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” (Gen. 15:2-3)

- **A divine delay doesn’t mean a cancelled promise** – “Then the word of the LORD came to him: ‘This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.’” (Gen. 15:4)
- **Faith looks at the problem in light of the promise** – “He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.’ Then He said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.” (Gen. 15:5-6)

‡ **God’s approval is not based on my performance** – “If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. What does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’” (Rom. 4:2-3)

One of the encouraging gifts when walking by faith is God’s re-assurance...

He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” (Gen. 15:7-8)

‡ **Our assurance is based on God’s commitment** – “When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I give this land...’” (Gen. 15:17-18)

...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 1:6)

God’s promise(s) and assurance are what guard against fear and doubt...

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. (Rom. 4:20-21)