

OAK  
GARDENS  
CHURCH



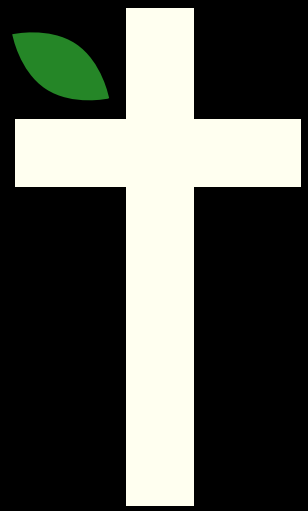
MARCH SERMON SERIES

# LIVING LIFE IN STAGES

## FROM EXPECTATIONS TO PROMISE

Presented By:

DR. PAUL DAY



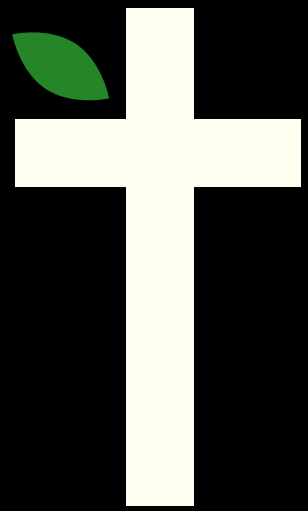
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**Genesis 12:10-20**

(NLT)

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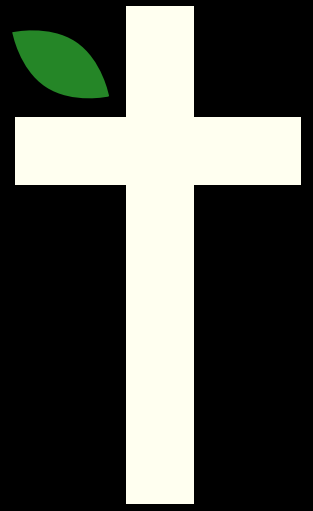
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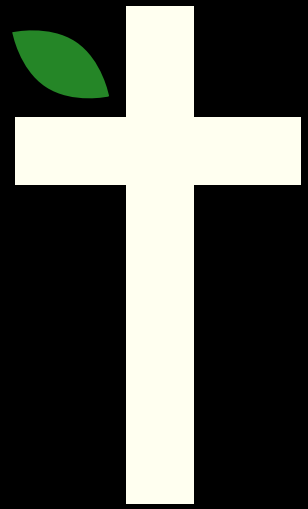
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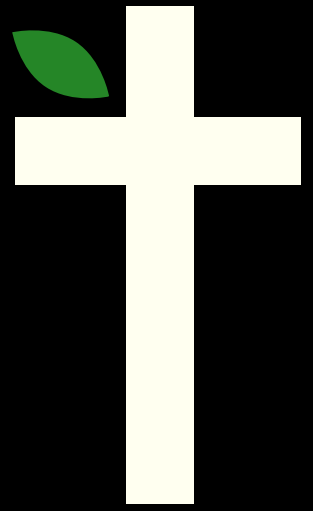
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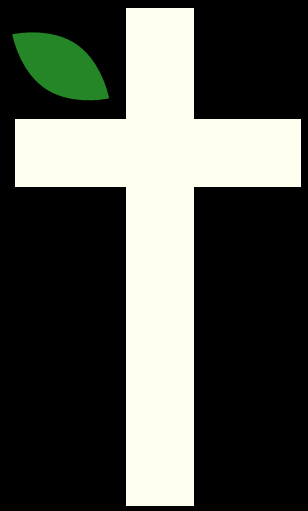
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**And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty.**



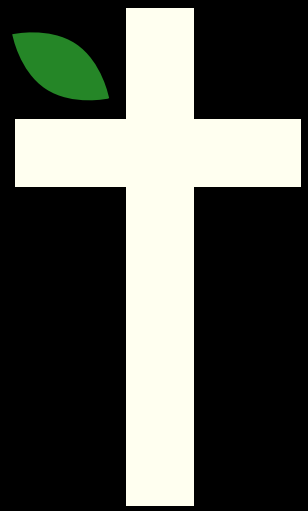
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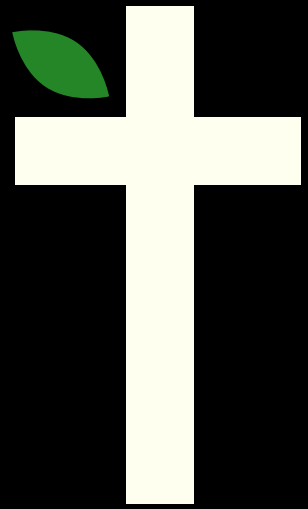
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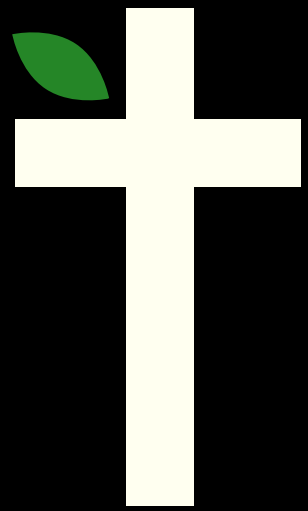
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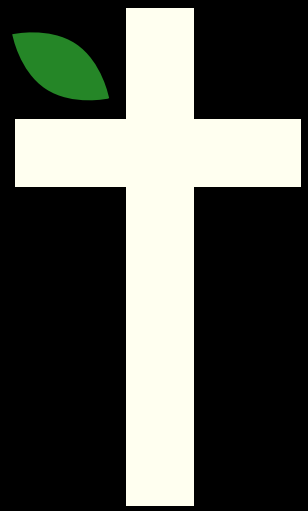
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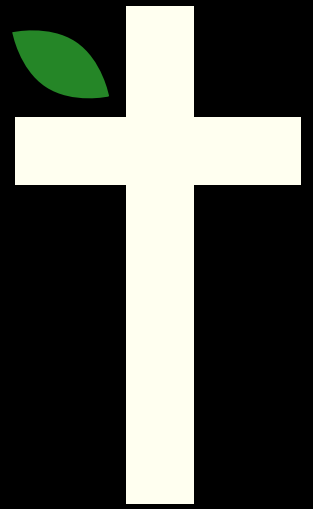
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**Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.**

SCORE: 01540

YOU 

15

PLAYER 2

PRESS START

# THESIS STATEMENT

**Growing in our faith is the ability to move from living on expectation to living on His promises.**

# WARREN W. WIERSBE

## SPIRITUAL LIFE STAGES

American clergyman  
& bible teacher

1929-2019



**SPIRITUAL LIFE STAGES**

**THE BEGINNING**

# **YOUNG FAITH**

- **Learning to trust God step by step**
- **Obedience is simple but shallow**
- **Faith depends heavily on visible results**

SPIRITUAL LIFE STAGES

# THE TESTING

# MATURING FAITH

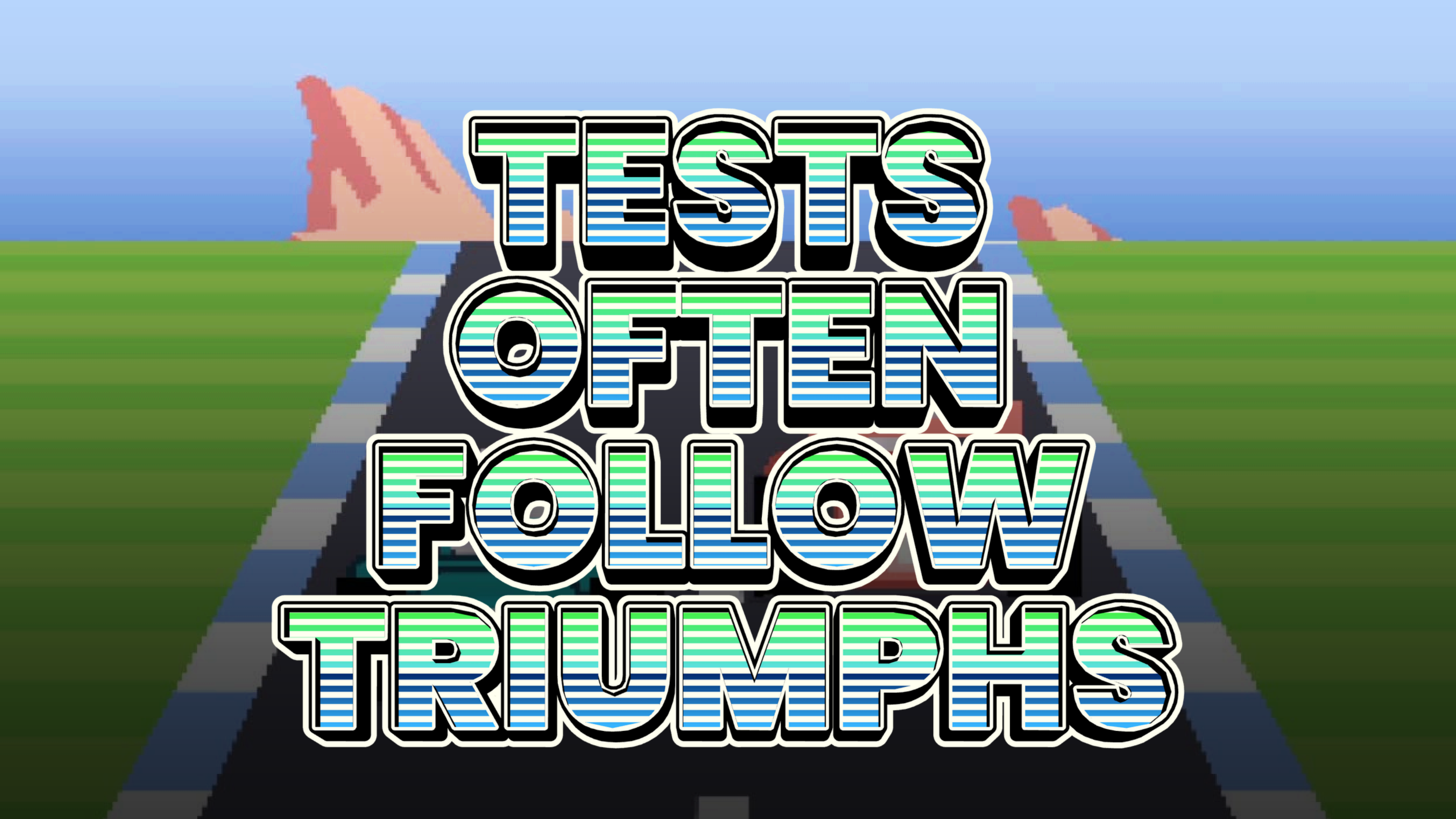
- **God stretches and tempers faith**
- **Some victories, some failures**
- **Trials expose what still controls us**

SPIRITUAL LIFE STAGES

THE SURRENDER

FIDELITY FAITH

**The ultimate question:  
“Do I love God more  
than anything else?”**

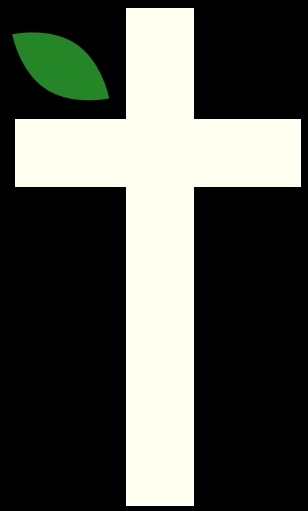


TESTS  
OFTEN  
FOLLOW  
TRIUMPHS

**FAILED TEST #1**  
**CIRCUMSTANCES**

**THE FAMINE**

**Genesis 12:10**



**SCRIPTURE**

**Genesis 12:10-20**

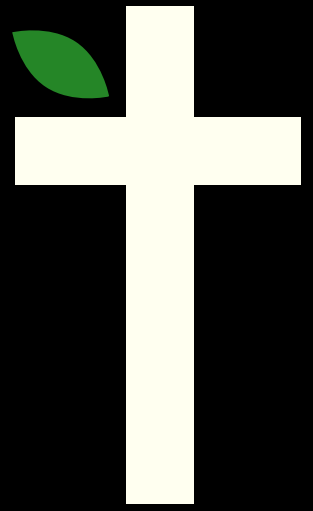
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# **SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE**

**When pressure rises, immature faith looks for escape instead of guidance.**



**SCRIPTURE**

**Romans 10:17**

(NLT)

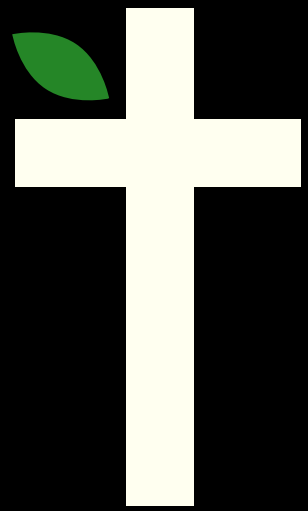
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**Faith comes by hearing God's Word  
— not by reacting to circumstances.**

**FAILED TEST #2**  
**PEOPLE**

**FEAR REPLACES FAITH**

**Genesis 12:11–20**



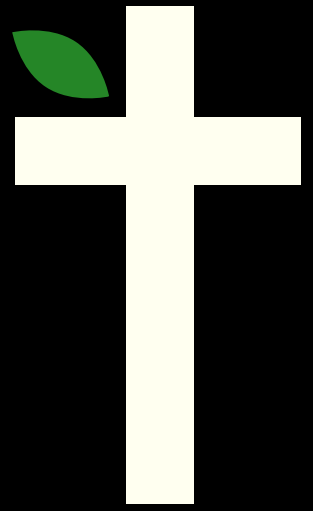
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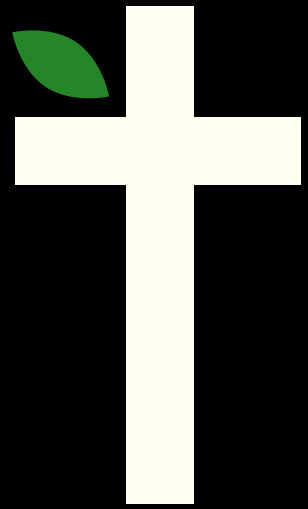
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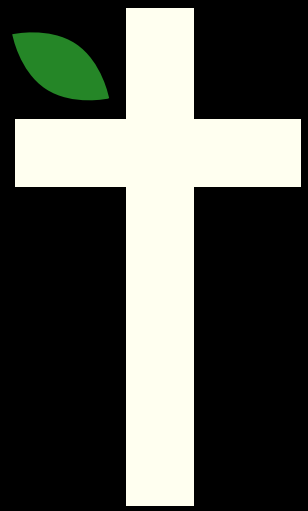
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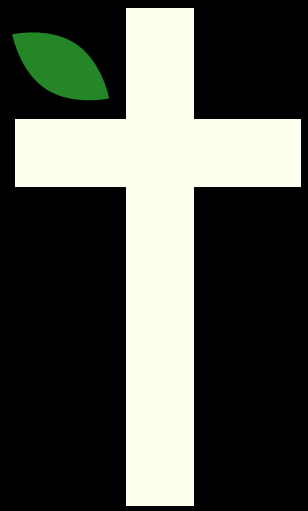
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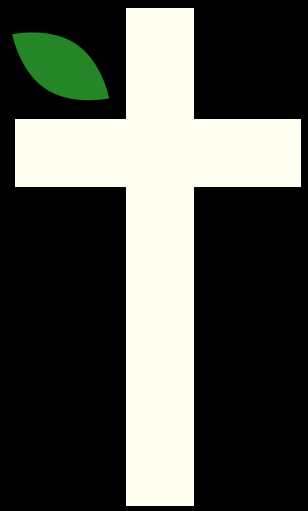
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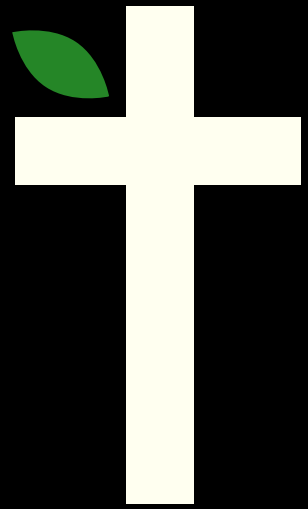
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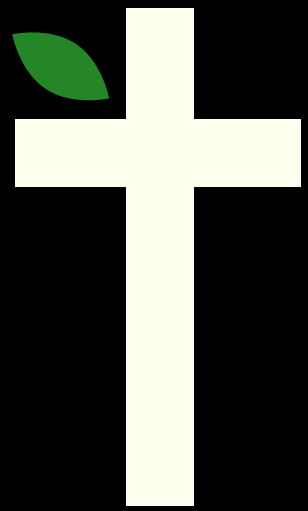
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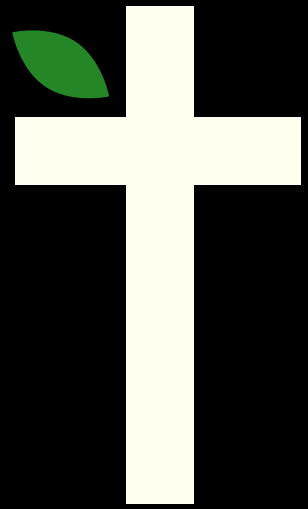
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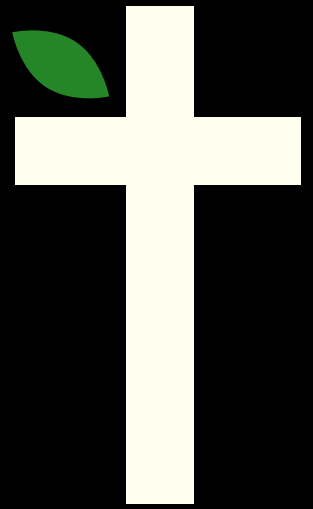
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# THE DOWNWARD PROGRESSION

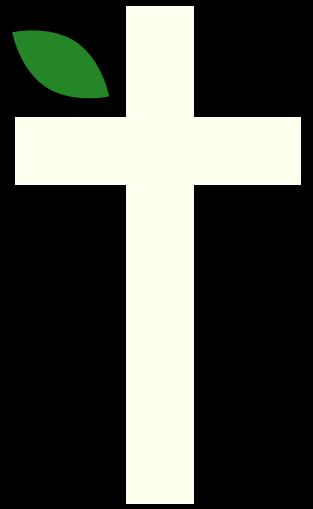
**Trusting → *Scheming***

**Confidence → *Fear***

**God-centered → *Self-preserving***

# WHEN FAITH COLLAPSES

**God preserves His promise**  
**God guards His plan**  
**God corrects His people**



## SCRIPTURE

# Genesis 12:7-9

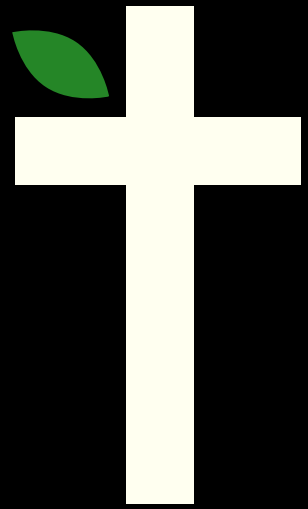
(NLT)

7

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said,

***“I will give this land to your descendants.”***

And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him.



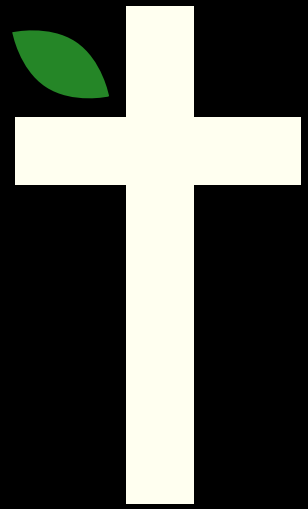
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(NLT)

**8**

**After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There, he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord.**



**SCRIPTURE**

**Genesis 12:7-9**

(NLT)

**9**

**Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.**

# FAITH GROWTH MOVEMENT

Abram's journey shows the movement every believer must make:

## Immature Faith

- Living by expectation
- Reacting to pressure
- Self-protection
- Fear-driven decisions

## Mature Faith

- Living by promise
- Resting in God
- God-dependence
- Promise-driven obedience

# ASK YOURSELF

**Where has famine made you anxious?**

**Where are you tempted to “go to Egypt” for solutions?**

**Have you abandoned an altar — prayer, worship, or surrender?**

**Are you trusting outcomes or trusting God’s Word?**