



Subject: Living the Moment While Believing in the Next One - Sermon Recap

Dear ECC Church Family,

I pray this message finds you well and that your spirit is still stirred from Sunday's powerful word. As I reflect on what God revealed to us through Genesis 12, I felt compelled to share some thoughts that might help anchor this transformative message in our daily walk.

Summary:

The sermon explored the true nature of faith through Abraham's journey, revealing that faith's primary purpose is not to immediately change our circumstances, but to first change us. We discovered that Abraham's faith didn't eliminate the famine he faced or make his situation easier—instead, it made him right with God, transformed him into a tree planted by living waters, and positioned him to be in charge of his moments rather than controlled by them. This teaching has profound implications for our spiritual life: when we understand that faith works **ON** us before it works **FOR** us, we stop being discouraged by trials and start recognizing them as opportunities for God to demonstrate His greatness in our situations.

Takeaways:

****Faith makes you right with God first, not comfortable in your circumstances.** Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Romans 4:3). Before faith delivers your blessing, heals your body, or moves your mountain, it does something far more important—it makes you right in God's sight. This is why you're blessed even when the situation looks unchanged.

****Trust is faith in action—you must move on what you believe.** Abraham didn't just believe God; he packed up his entire household and moved to a land he'd never seen, serving a God he'd never known. Faith without corresponding action is dead. The devil believes and trembles, but trust requires you to do something that expresses what you believe, even when you don't see the outcome yet.

****Living the moment means being in charge of it, not controlled by it.**** Like a tree planted by rivers of water, when you trust God, you don't see when heat comes and you're not careful in the year of drought (Jeremiah 17:7-8). The Hebrew boys still went into the furnace, Daniel still entered the lion's den, and Abraham still faced the famine—but in each situation, God was great even when the situation wasn't. Don't react to your moment; live it with the confidence that you're planted by the water.

Closing Remarks:

The next time something shows up in your life that you don't understand, please do not respond to it like you don't understand. Do not react to the moment—live it. Stand toe-to-toe with that situation for as long as it lasts and declare, "I'm in charge. I still have my joy. I don't know why you're here, but I know God is here with me."

Remember: having faith in God doesn't mean the situation will be great, but rather that God will be great in the situation. Your faith has already made you right with God. Your trust has transformed you into a tree planted by living waters. And because of where you're planted, you're now in charge of everything else that happens.

May this word continue to develop in your spirit throughout the week.

In His Service,

ECC Communications

5-Day Devotional: Living by Faith, Trusting Through the Journey

Day 1: Faith Makes You Right with God

****Reading:**** Genesis 12:1-4; Romans 4:3; James 2:23

****Devotional:****

Abraham's journey began not with blessings, but with belief. When God called him to leave everything familiar, Abraham had faith in a God he didn't yet know. The remarkable truth is that before faith produced miracles, it produced righteousness. Romans 4:3 declares that Abraham "believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." This is faith's first work—not changing your circumstances, but changing your standing before God. You become right with Him the moment you believe. Before the healing, the provision, or the breakthrough, faith reconciles you to your Creator. Today, recognize that your faith has already accomplished something profound: you are made righteous, accepted, and positioned for everything God has planned.

Day 2: Trust Requires Action

****Reading:**** Genesis 12:4-10; James 2:24

****Devotional:****

Abraham didn't just believe God; he packed up his entire household and moved toward an unknown destination. Faith is what you possess in your heart; trust is what you demonstrate with your feet. James reminds us that faith without works is dead. The journey from belief to blessing passes through the territory of obedience. Abraham's trust was tested immediately—he arrived in Canaan only to face a severe famine. Yet his willingness to move transformed him from a man with faith into a man of faith. What is God asking you to do today? Trust isn't waiting until you see the outcome; it's moving while you're still believing. Your obedience to God's voice, even when the path is unclear, activates the transformation faith has begun in your heart.

Day 3: Faith Transforms You Into a Tree

****Reading:**** Jeremiah 17:7-8; Psalm 1:1-3

****Devotional:****

When you trust God, something miraculous happens—you stop being merely human and become like a tree planted by rivers of water. This isn't about what you receive; it's about what you become. A tree planted by water doesn't panic during drought because its roots reach deep into an endless supply. The heat may come, circumstances may threaten, but the tree remains green, fruitful, and unconcerned. This is the blessed life—not absence of difficulty, but presence of stability regardless of conditions. Your trust in God plants you beside His inexhaustible resources. You're no longer dependent on circumstances; you're drawing from the River of Life Himself. Today, sink your roots deeper into God's Word and presence, knowing that what sustains you is greater than what surrounds you.

Day 4: Living the Moment While Believing in the Next

****Reading:**** Genesis 50:20; Philippians 1:12-14

****Devotional:****

Joseph lived in a prison cell but believed in a palace. Jesus hung on a cross but saw a resurrection. Both men mastered the art of living their present moment while believing in their next one. Faith doesn't deny your current reality; it refuses to let that reality define your future. Joseph was favored in prison, but he never stopped believing prison wasn't his destination. You can have joy in your trial because you know transformation is coming. The Hebrew boys walked into the fire with faith; Daniel entered the lion's den with integrity. Their faith didn't prevent the situation—it positioned God to be great in the situation. Today, whatever moment you're living, live it fully with faith, knowing that God is orchestrating your next season even now.

Day 5: Faith First Works On You, Then For You

****Reading:**** Hebrews 11:8-10; 1 Peter 1:6-7

****Devotional:****

We often want faith to immediately change our circumstances, but God designed faith to first change us. Abraham's faith made him righteous, transformed him into a spiritual tree, and positioned him by living water—all before he received the promised land. The trial of your faith works patience, character, and hope. God isn't withholding blessing; He's preparing you to steward it. When the Hebrew boys emerged from the furnace, they didn't just survive—they were transformed, promoted, and carried no scent of smoke. Your current test is developing something in you that your future requires. Don't despise the process. Faith is making you right with God, trust is transforming your nature, and positioning is preparing you for overflow. Stand firm, knowing that what faith is doing in you will soon work powerfully for you.

****Reflection Questions for the Week:****

- How has your understanding of faith shifted from what it does for you to what it does in you?
- What situation are you facing that requires you to trust God and take action despite uncertainty?
- Where do you need to deepen your roots so circumstances don't determine your spiritual stability?
- Are you living your current moment with faith while believing God for your next season?
- What character quality is God developing in you through your present trial?