

04-24-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Power of Faith, pt-2

Purpose: Provoke people to develop faith in God to be saved, endure difficulty, reach their dreams, and meet their needs.

Truth for Today: Faith enables us to be saved, endure difficulty, reach our dreams, and meet our needs.

Text: Genesis 17:15-16, 15:1-6, 16:1-15, 22:1-18

Topic: Faith, Doubt, Abraham, Endurance, Test

Series Title: Mentor Me

Series Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons, good and bad, from Biblical characters.

The Power of Faith, pt-2

I. Introduction

A. Review series: Mentor Me. It's about learning life lessons from Biblical mentors.

1. Last time we began a mentoring session with Abraham about the power of faith. Abraham was called at 75 to become a father of the nation of Israel and a spiritual father to the world, but he didn't have kids until 100 when Isaac was born. He'll mentor us about developing our Faith in God that will help us in 3 ways: (1) Salvation, (2) Enduring hardship, (3) Realizing dreams, and having our needs met

B. Title: The Power of Faith, pt-2

II. Faith lesson #1: The best starting place for faith is a word from God.

Review

A. [Genesis 17:15–16 (ESV) **God said** to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife...16...**I will give you a son by her.**] God made a promise; Abram had faith and did his part and it happened in God’s timing. Dilemma: I’ve had faith for things that happened and some things that didn’t, e.g., I had faith for a turkey in Ms. and rain to stop but neither happened. When it’s God’s will, not just my desire, faith makes things happen. [1 John 5:14–15 (ESV) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that **if we ask anything according to his will** he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, **we know** that we have the requests that we have asked of him.] The challenge is knowing God’s will, especially when a strong desire is involved.

B. Faith lesson #1: The best starting place for faith is a word from God. Best because if God gives us a word/ promise, (Gk. ‘rhema’, a now word from God, vs. ‘logos’), the written word of God, it will come to pass in God’s time if we have faith and do what He says. Sometimes we want things to happen and even have Scripture, but our desire doesn’t fit God’s plan, e.g., God promised Israel the land, but Jews died in Egypt for 400 years waiting for God’s timing. I don’t

understand everything about faith, but I choose to live every day believing God for whatever I face.

- C. Def. faith: Trust in, or reliance on God.³; Faith is the agreement of the mind to the truth of what God has revealed.¹ Faith is expressed by actions, obedience, and the words we say that God can and will act on our behalf. [James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**] If we have faith in what God says and do what He asks it will happen. We may have to wait a long time and battle satanic opposition, but if God says it, it will happen. Faith is not Aladdin's lamp: rub the right way, say the right words and poof.

III. Faith lesson #2: Faith releases power so God can make obstacles move and change take place.

- A. [Genesis 15:1–6 (NLT) You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.” 4 Then the Lord said...No...**you will have a son of your own...**5 Then the Lord...said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars...That’s how many descendants you will have!” 6 **And Abram believed the Lord**, and the Lord counted him as **righteous because of his faith...**] The paradigm for salvation by faith in God and His Word is being modeled but it is also a principle of the power of faith to meet our needs and help us reach our God given dreams.
- B. Pic tractor pin The tractor has power, and the disc/ chopper has potential but nothing will happen without the pin. The pin is our faith in God and His Word. Faith lesson #2: Faith releases power so God can make obstacles move and change take place. Abe's obstacle was no kids and getting older. There were no pregnancy clinics offering therapy, i.e., there was no way humanly possible for it to happen.
- C. What can we do to release the power of faith? Context: army outnumbered Israel, [2 Chron. 20:5–21 (NLT) Jehoshaphat...6...**prayed...you alone are the God** who is in heaven. **You are ruler** of all the kingdoms of the earth. **You are powerful and mighty; no one** can stand against you! [(1) *confession of who God is*] 7 O our God, **did you** not drive out those who lived in this land...And **did you** not give this land forever to the descendants of...Abraham? [(2) *confession of what God has done*] 8 Your people...built this Temple...9 They said, ‘Whenever we are **faced with any calamity**...we can come to stand in your presence... We can **cry out** to you to save us, and **you will...rescue us.**’ [(3) *Faith in a promise from God from the past and a prophecy*]...20 Early the next morning the army of Judah **went out** into the wilderness... [(4) *acting on what God says*]...21...the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army...praising Him...[(4) (*Praising God before it happens*))] The result God

fulfilled His promise and destroyed the enemy. Faith lesson #2: Faith releases power so God can make obstacles move and change take place.

IV. Faith lesson #3: Faith helps us endure while we wait on God's timing to fulfill His promise.

A. [Genesis 16:1–15 (NLT)...**Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children** for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "**The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.**"...12 This son of yours will be a wild man...**he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.**"]

1. The ongoing struggle between Arabs and Jews is caused by Abe's lack of enduring faith. It was hard for Abram and Sarai to wait/ endure so they had a lapse of faith and tried to make it happen on their own.
2. Time, waiting, experience, and reason can be the enemy of faith but while we're waiting, God doesn't want us to make things happen. When we try to help God so what we're believing for happens quicker, we mess things up, e.g., Ishmael

B. How do we find enduring faith? [Heb. 10:32–38 (ESV) But **recall the former days** when...you endured a hard struggle with sufferings... [(1) *remember how God helped you before*] 35 Therefore **do not throw away your confidence** (NLT *trust in the Lord*), which has a great reward. [(2) *faith is a choice with a promised reward*] 36 For **you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.** [(3) *what is God asking me to do as I wait*] 37 For, "Yet a *little while*, and the coming one will come and will not delay; [(4) *Remind yourself, my problem won't last forever*] 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and **if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.**" [(5) *I'm not quitting; I'm living to hear Jesus say, 'well done'*]

v. Faith lesson #4: Our faith is tested when God calls us to obey.

A. Genesis 22:1-18 (NLT) **God tested Abraham's faith.** "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." 2 "**Take your son...Isaac, whom you love so much...** Go and **sacrifice him as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains...3 **The next morning Abraham got up early...**5 "Stay here...Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. **We will worship there, and then we will come right back.**"

1. God never intended him to kill his son, as pagans did. It was a test of faith to see if he would obey, to see if he loved God more than his son. A burnt offering was a gift which was totally devoted to the Lord.²

2. How was this possible? His faith had grown. [Heb. 11:17–19 (NIV) By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice...19 **Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead...**]

B. [Vs. 6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife...7...“We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?” 8 “**God will provide** a sheep for the burnt offering...9...Abraham built an altar...Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 **Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.** 11 **At that moment** the angel of the Lord called to him ...Abraham replied. “Here I am!” 12 “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said....for **now I know** that you truly fear God.]

1. When our faith is tested, the test reveals what we really believe, e.g., school test.

c. [Vs.13 Then Abraham looked up and saw **a ram** caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 16 “This is what the Lord says: **Because you have obeyed me... 17 I will certainly bless you...18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.**”] Faith lesson #4: Faith is tested by our obedience.

1. The NT explains it this way, [James 2:18–23 (NCV)...**I will show you my faith by what I do...**21 Abraham...was made right with God by **what he did** when he offered his son Isaac on the altar...23... “Abraham believed God, and God accepted Abraham’s faith, and that faith made him right with God.”]

VI. Conclusion

A. Summary of faith lessons from our mentor Abraham: (1) The best starting place for faith is a word from God. (2) Faith releases power so God can make obstacles move and change take place. (3) Faith helps us endure while we wait on God’s timing to fulfill His promise. (4) Our faith is tested when God calls us to obey.

VII. Response

A. Prayer

B. Souls

VIII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Webster, N. (2006). [*Noah Webster’s first edition of An American dictionary of the English language*](#). Anaheim, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education.

2. Scott, W. R. (2000). [Burnt Offering](#). In D. N. Freedman, A. C. Myers, & A. B. Beck (Eds.), *Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible* (p. 205). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
3. Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In [Harper's Bible dictionary](#) (1st ed., p. 298). San Francisco: Harper & Row.