

Faith: Abraham

Genesis 15

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1 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."**

2 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?"

3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

4 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."

5 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."

6 Abram believed the LORD, and he
credited it to him as righteousness.

7 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."

8 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age.

16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates--

Abram **believed** the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

- Because, as all sin lies folded in one thought of distrust, so in one thought of trust lies all possible righteousness.
- In the faith of Abram lay all the righteous endurance, all the active service of his believing life.

Genesis 3:4-5

4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.

5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Proverbs 3

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Proverbs 3:23-26

23 Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble;

24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

**25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of
the ruin that overtakes the wicked,**

26 for the LORD will be your confidence and
will keep your foot from being snared.

Luke 1:38

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Hebrews 10:38-11:1

38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Faith

- **Even Abram doubted.**
- **God is in covenant with us.**