

# "The Building Block of Faith"

II Peter 1:3-9

**Open:** What is Faith?

- **Faith is believing** – Faith is not a blind step into obscure darkness. It is a decision made based on the track record of God's ability to keep His promises to us.
- **Faith is doubting** – Without doubt there would be no need for faith. Doubting is the human reasoning that tries to overpower a Bible promise.
- **Faith is acting on the belief instead of the doubt** – Faith is choosing to do what God has asked me to do regardless of how I feel or regardless of my ability to understand God's reasoning.

➤ *Faith is the foundation, not the apex, of Christianity. So many Christians never grow spiritually because they never step out by faith.*

**Tran:**

- **God intended you to grow in your spiritual life. God did not intend for His children to stay at the same spiritual level their entire life.**
  - **II Peter 3:18** *"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..."*
  - **Heb. 6:1, 9a** *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God... [9] But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,"*
- God has given each Christian a desire to grow, just as every baby desires to eat. **I Peter 2:2** *"As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*
- God has exceeding great and precious promises available for His children at salvation, but many never claim those promise because of a lack of faith. **Matthew 13:58** *"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. "*
- Too many Christians are satisfied with knowing they are going to heaven and they miss out on "**A Beside This Christianity**". They choose to substitute worldly lusts for spiritual satisfaction. **II Peter 1:4-5a** *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. [5] And beside this giving all diligence, add to..."*

➤ *Faith is the key that unlocks the door to all of God's blessings in the Christian life. Lets look at one of the greatest illustrations of faith in the Bible, **Abraham**.*

## I. **The journey of faith was put into motion because of faith in the God.**

A. Faith in God's leading. God always calls his children to live a life of faith.

- i. Abraham – **Gen.12:1-3** *"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: "*
- ii. Us – **Heb. 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

B. Faith in God's desire to give something better to His children.

- i. Abraham – **Gen. 12:2-3** *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*
- ii. Us – **II Cor. 6:17-18** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*

C. Faith in God's ability to fulfill His promise.

- i. Abraham – **Gen. 15:1-6** *"After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. [2] And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? [3] And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. [4] And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. [5] And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. [6] **And he believed in the LORD;** and he counted it to him for righteousness. "*
- ii. Us – **Heb. 10:35-36** *"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. [36] For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."*

➤ Abraham put his faith into motion, he did not just sit there with good intentions of acting on faith. Faith is action. **Gen. 12:4a** *"So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; "*

## II. **The journey of faith was *preserved* because of a proper focus on God's promises.**

A. Abraham remained focused on the person of God.

- i. Abraham was not focused on the difficulties of the journey or the delay of fulfilled promises, he continued because he was focused on the person of God. **Gen. 12:6-9** *"And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. [7] And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. [8] And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. [9] And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south."*

B. Abraham remained focused on what God wanted for him (not what he wanted from God.)

**Gen. 13:14-18** *"And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: [15] For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. [16] And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. [17] Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. [18] Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD. "*

C. Abraham remained focused on Who would prosper him. **Gen. 15:1** *"After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."*

### III. **The journey of faith prospered because of Abraham's motivation.**

#### A. Proper fulfillment in life.

- i. He did not just want to live his life; he wanted his life to be fulfilling. Abraham did not become enamored with the apparent ease of the life in Sodom **Gen. 13:10-12** *"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. [11] Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. [12] Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom."*
- ii. He learned to value, in life, what God valued. He was not willing to settle for less than what God wanted him to have. **Gen. 14:21-24** *"And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. [22] And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, [23] That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: [24] Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."*

- B. To see God's promises fulfilled through his life. **Gen. 15:8-11** *"And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? [9] And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. [10] And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. [11] And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away."*

#### Close:

- A proof of a growth of faith is an increase of works.
- Do you desire to grow in your spiritual life? Then what are you doing with your faith? Where are you placing your faith? What works are you adding to your faith?
- You can't grow in your spiritual life without faith, and you can not grow in faith if your not doing anything for God.

### **James 2:17**

*"Even so faith if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."*

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### ***"Review Questions"***

1. What are the 3 parts to faith? **Believing, Doubting, Acting on the belief and not the doubt.**
2. In your spiritual life God does not want you to stay the same, He intends for you to **?????. Grow.**
3. The journey of faith is put into motion because of faith in **?????. God**
4. The journey of faith is preserved because of a proper **?????** on God. **Focus**
5. The journey of faith prospers because of proper **?????. Motivation**