

“Faith motivated Abraham to obey God’s call and leave the familiar to discover the territory he was destined to inherit from God. So he left with only a promise and without even knowing ahead of time where he was going, Abraham stepped out in faith. His eyes of faith were set on the city with unshakable foundations, whose architect and builder is God himself.”

Hebrews 11:8, 10 TPT

Abraham was motivated by faith and his eyes were set on Zion, the city of God. In Genesis 12, God had spoken to Abraham and made a promise that He would bless Abraham and that through him, all people on earth would be blessed. Abraham held onto this promise and followed God into the unknown. Being a human, there’s no doubt that there were days when nothing made sense and the promises of God seemed far-fetched and insane. But through all the obstacles and uncertainties, doubts and fears, Abraham was faithful because he had confidence, hope and assurance that God would do what He said He would do.

The author of the book of Hebrews tells us in chapter 11 that, “faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Faith is confidence. Faith is assurance. But what do we have faith in? Why do we have assurance? In Hebrews 11:11, we read about Sarah, Abraham’s wife, “Sarah’s faith embraced God’s miracle power to conceive even though she was barren and was past the age of childbearing, for the authority of her faith rested in the One who made the promise, and she tapped into his faithfulness.” When the very promise of God doesn’t make sense to us and the world around us is burning down in chaos, we have the choice to grab onto God’s miracle power and tap into His faithfulness. We can have confidence because God is faithful. Throughout the bible there are accounts of His faithfulness to ordinary people; men and women who put their trust in Him. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is not biased to any specific personality type, gender, age, status, ethnicity or race. He is faithful and therefore, we can have confidence.

You might have obstacles or overwhelming situations staring you down, but you can have confidence in God’s love, shown through His salvation, because of His faithfulness. You can find rest in His peace and find strength in His joy. He has proven His faithfulness with every generation and has made good on every promise from the very beginning. The authority of your faith rests in the One who made the promise.

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Take a moment to pause and consider God's faithfulness. [seriously, do it] Now, take another moment to thank God for all the ways that He has been kind, generous and faithful to you. In this posture of gratitude, determine in your heart that you will put your trust in God, even if you cannot see a way to the fulfilment of promise. Decide that today you will live with confidence and not fear, and that just like Abraham, you will step out in faith, maybe again, into the unknown.

PRAYER

Dear God, I believe that you have been faithful to your people from the start, and I have confidence that you will be faithful until the very end. Where I have doubt, please give me assurance. Where I have fears, please give me your peace. Where I have uncertainties, please give me confidence. I submit my will to yours right now. I offer you my faith. May you bless the people in my world through my obedience and because of your faithfulness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1 NIV

"Faith motivated Abraham to obey God's call and leave the familiar to discover the territory he was destined to inherit from God. So he left with only a promise and without even knowing ahead of time where he was going, Abraham stepped out in faith. His eyes of faith were set on the city with unshakable foundations, whose architect and builder is God himself."

Hebrews 11:8, 10 TPT

"Sarah's faith embraced God's miracle power to conceive even though she was barren and was past the age of childbearing, for the authority of her faith rested in the One who made the promise, and she tapped into his faithfulness."

Hebrews 11:11 TPT

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13 NLT

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Exodus 14:14 NIV

Fear, anxiety, and distrust were pulsing through the hearts of the Israelites as they fled through the desert and found themselves stuck at the Red Sea. They had trusted the Lord, but for what? In Exodus 14:10, we read that as the enemy and the oppressor advanced towards the Israelites, the people began to blame Moses and doubt God. In the months leading up to this moment, God had shown His power through the plagues that brought Egypt to its knees, culminating in the Passover and freedom for the Israelites. However, in this moment, suspended between an army and the sea, nobody paused to remember God’s faithfulness and might. All they could see was their present, and very real trial.

Then, Moses called out to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” (Exodus 14:13-14) The rest is history. God created a pathway through the sea and the Israelites crossed safely. Then, as the Egyptians pursued, the sea closed on them, destroying the entire army, and ensuring the freedom of God’s people. In verse 31, we see that the people “feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.”

Sometimes, in the face of our current, and very real challenges, we forget everything that God has already done for us. It’s easy to lose sight of His faithfulness and begin to blame people or things for our situation. Doubt can settle in and we are enticed to step back from the life of faith that God has called us to. Are you facing a challenge right now? Has your faith been tested or has doubt attempted to overtake your heart?

Faith looks back on all of God’s faithfulness and powerful deliverance. Faith also looks forward, beyond the present trials. Despite whatever troubles, challenges or impossible situations you may find yourself in, remind yourself that God is powerful and mighty to save. He has been and will always be a rescuer and a redeemer. Like the Israelites on the shores of the Red Sea, you may not see a way right now, but God can make a way. You may not know how, but you can have confidence that He will.

The Apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans, “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” God is our source of hope, joy and peace in the times of trouble. All we need to do is put our trust in Him.

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Jeremiah 17:7 says, “blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him” and Psalm 120:1 says, “I took my troubles to the Lord; I cried out to him, and he answered my prayer.” Take a moment to examine the position of your heart. Do you really trust in His deliverance? Is your faith strong, or are you barely holding on? He can meet you wherever you are; even on the shores of impossibility, He can make a way. Choose to have faith today and take heart because He’s the God of the impossible.

PRAYER

Dear God, as I walk this road of faith, I pray that you will strengthen my heart and my convictions. I put my faith in you. I choose to trust you, only you. I pray that you will fill me with your joy, peace and confident hope through the power of your Holy Spirit. I declare that you are my source; my Deliverer and my Provider. I may not know how you will make a way, but I know that you will. In Jesus’ mighty name, amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

“As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord.”

Exodus 14:10 NIV

“Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.””

Exodus 14:13-14 NIV

“And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.”

Exodus 14:31 NIV

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV

“I took my troubles to the Lord; I cried out to him, and he answered my prayer.”

Psalms 120:1 NLT

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13 NLT

“These heroes all died still clinging to their faith, not even receiving all that had been promised them. But they saw beyond the horizon the fulfillment of their promises and gladly embraced it from afar. They all lived their lives on earth as those who belonged to another realm.”

Hebrews 11:13 TPT

Many of the men and women of faith who we read about in the Bible lived their lives clinging to a promise. Some fought giants whilst others marched around fortified cities in the desert, believing that they would see deliverance, justice and the fulfilment of a promise. Miracles took place, dead were raised to life, battles were won and God provided in mysterious ways. Doesn't this stir up your faith?! Reading these stories can be so awe-inspiring and encouraging in our own lives. Many of us find great comfort and strength in these profound accounts of faith.

Not all the faith-heroes had stories that ended with triumphant outcomes on earth, though. “Others were mocked and experienced the most severe beating with whips; they were in chains and imprisoned... These were the true heroes, commended for their faith, yet they lived in hope without receiving the fullness of what was promised them.” (Hebrews 11:36, 39 TPT) Many of these people witnessed great things in their lifetime and even though they saw miraculous displays of God's power, they still did not see the fulfilment of the promise before they died.

While this may seem sad, or even cruel, it's important to note that the eyes of faith see generationally, not momentarily. These people lived with a belief that God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. (Isaiah 55:9) They believed that God had made a promise and He was faithful to accomplish what He said He would. So, despite the fire burning, sword piercing, chains binding and crowds ridiculing them, these men and women pressed on and clung to the promises of God until their last breath. They paved a way for those who came after them, and in many cases, it was even their faith in the face of the worst persecution that led others to find salvation and deliverance.

Do you have faith that sees generationally? Can you see beyond your own life and take hold of the promise that God has given, even if you never see the fulfilment of that promise? We may never encounter the type of persecution that many others have, but when we cannot see a way through the challenges we face, we can have faith that God is on the move. He is up to something, and when it all shakes out, the gates of hell don't stand a chance. Sometimes we might not know how God is going to fulfill the promise, but we can cling to it with great confidence, knowing that He will!

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Pause for a moment to reflect on your faith. Is your faith dependent on seeing the promise fulfilled in your life, the way you expect it to be done? This is a struggle for many, and it doesn't make you a bad person or mean that your faith is worthless. If things don't work out the way you plan or expect and you never see the promise come to pass in your lifetime, will you still believe?

PRAYER

Dear God, I know that your thoughts are higher than mine and that you see things differently than I do in the natural. I pray that you will open the eyes of my spirit, Lord. Help me see beyond my current situation and have a faith that thinks generationally. If I never see the fulfillment of the promise, I will choose to have faith. I don't know how You will do it, but I know that You will. Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

"These heroes all died still clinging to their faith, not even receiving all that had been promised them. But they saw beyond the horizon the fulfillment of their promises and gladly embraced it from afar. They all lived their lives on earth as those who belonged to another realm."

Hebrews 11:13 TPT

"Others were mocked and experienced the most severe beating with whips; they were in chains and imprisoned. Some of these faith champions were brutally killed by stoning, being sawn in two or slaughtered by the sword. These lived in faith as they went about wearing goatskins and sheepskins for clothing. They lost everything they possessed, they endured great afflictions, and they were cruelly mistreated. They wandered the earth living in the desert wilderness, in caves, on barren mountains and in holes in the earth. Truly, the world was not even worthy of them, not realizing who they were. These were the true heroes, commended for their faith, yet they lived in hope without receiving the fullness of what was promised them. But now God has invited us to live in something better than what they had—faith's fullness! This is so that they could be brought to finished perfection alongside of us."

Hebrews 11: 36-40 TPT

"For my thoughts about mercy are not like your thoughts, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so my ways and my thoughts are higher than yours."

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV