

Virginia Council of Churches

Lenten Reflection Series

2nd Week of Lent, February 25, 2024

Scripture: Romans 4: 13-25

Most of us in Christendom have heard of God's famous promise to Abraham that he and his children would inherit the world. God did not make this promise because of Abraham's works but solely because he decided to activate his faith in Him. When God asked Abraham to *"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* ([Genesis 12:1-3](#), ESV).

Abraham was uncertain where he was going or what he was about to do; however, he trusted God, so much that he is recorded as one of the faith heroes in the New Testament scriptures. [Hebrews 11:8](#) says it was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to go to a place he was to receive as an inheritance, not even knowing where he was going. And as he went, God slowly revealed more and more details with each step of faith.

As a result of his ACTIVATED faith, God promised to bless Abraham and his wife, Sarah, in their old age. That alone was a miracle but did not sway his faith in God. Abraham trusted God to do just what he said. Although his body was old and Sarah's womb was dry, he yet trusted God.

There are several lessons that we could glean from Abraham's story.

1. He did not focus on his deficits: He did not allow his bleak situation to dictate his future blessings. He decided not to live on his ability but on what God said he would do.
2. He trusted God: His trust in God outweighed the trust he had in himself, his wife, or what societal norms had set for him. In spite of the dark hour he was in, he trusted God even more!
1. He stepped out on faith: He activated his faith. Faith without works is dead (James:217), and without faith, no man can please God (Hebrews 11:6). God has given us a measure of faith to ignite our faith walk. All it takes is faith the size of a mustard seed to get things started.

Prayer: God, we thank you for activating faith in you. Often, we believe, but we pray that you would help our unbelief.

Forgive us for not fully trusting and believing that all things are possible with you. Thank you for reminding us through the story of Abraham and Sarah that nothing is impossible if we trust in you. Surely, if you did it for them, you can do it for us. Since Abraham was made the father of many nations through his faith and was declared fit before God, we can be equally blessed.

Although he may not be our biological father, he is our faith father, and we are his heirs. Moreover, you have made us joint heirs with Christ; if so, it is that we suffer with Him and may also be glorified together. Amen



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