

FAITH LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

2 weeks ago we looked at Jesus' faith lesson.

Mark 11:22-24 YLT And Jesus answering saith to them, **`Have faith of God;** 23 for verily I say to you, that whoever may say to this mount, Be taken up, and be cast into the sea, and may not doubt in his heart, but may believe that the things that he saith do come to pass, it shall be to him whatever he may say. 24 Because of this I say to you, all whatever -- praying -- ye do ask, believe that ye receive, and it shall be to you.

Before Jesus taught us to release our faith he commanded us to use the faith of God.

We answered 2 important questions.

1) What is God's faith based on?

The integrity of his nature.

Hebrews 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, that we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

2) How does God release His faith?

He calls those things that be not as though they are.

Hebrews 11:3 TPT Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinated by the power of God's words! **He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen.**

We need to understand that there are two realms.

1) The spiritual realm where God exists is eternal.

2) The natural realm where we live is temporal.

When God saw the vast darkness of the earth, he did not use the power of his words to agree with what he saw in the natural. "It sure is dark." He declared what already existed in the spiritual realm and said "light be."

Now let's look at the life and promise of Abraham and see if he used God's faith to receive his promise.

First let's look at what Abraham and Sarah's faith was based on.

The question is why do we look to Abraham to discover faith?

Romans 4:17 He is our example and father, for in God's presence he believed that God can raise the dead and call into being things that don't even exist yet.

Abraham

Hebrews 4:20-21 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 **and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.**

Sarah

Hebrews 11:11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, **because she judged Him faithful who had promised.**

It sounds like we have two faith giants to try to live up to. Well we know how the story ended, but it is also important to know how the story began.

Abraham

Genesis 17:16-17 NKJV And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." 17 **Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed,** and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Sarah

Genesis 18:10-12 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. 12 Therefore **Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"**

How did God help them go from laughter to being fully persuaded and judging him faithful and receiving their promise?

God creates a process to develop belief.

Genesis 15:2-4 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.

The first challenge was to change the way Abram saw himself. He saw himself fatherless and as long as he saw himself that way he would remain that way so God had to create a way to paint a picture in his heart of being a father of many nations.

Genesis 15:5 Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

Genesis 22:17 Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

We have to understand what God is doing. He is giving him something to focus on day and night.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

God gave him a seed (a promise) that always produces after its own kind.

Then he gave him a way to sow it in his heart through meditation until he began to see himself as the father of many nations.

The last step was to reap the harvest.

Genesis 17:1-5 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” 3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

What was the purpose of the name change?

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did.**

Now let’s go back to how God released his faith.

Hebrews 11:3 He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen.

He spoke into the unseen eternal realm where all of God’s promises already exist and called it into the natural realm.

He spoke to what he wanted, not what already existed in the natural realm.

If God would have called the things that are as though they are he would have said, it sure is dark and it would have remained dark. But he called what was not as though it was and said light be and light became.

Back to Abraham:

Now every time Abraham introduced himself he declared “Father of many nations.”

Every time one of his hundreds of servants came to him for instruction and called him Abraham they were declaring “Father of many nations.”

They were calling what was not as though it was.

The issue they had was that in the natural their bodies were incapable of fulfilling the promise. To produce a child it requires a live seed and a healthy egg.

If you were to look at a healthy man’s seeds under a microscope it would look like thousands of little swimming tadpoles. I bet if you looked a hundred year old man’s seeds there would be no life.

A healthy young woman produces eggs every month that will become a child if it is fertilized with a man’s seed. The problem with Sarah was that she could not have a child when she was in her twenties because she didn’t produce healthy eggs.

What changed?

Isaiah 55:11 NLT It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, **who gives life to the dead** and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

Every time they declared God’s word by calling those things that are not as though they are, it was the word of God that began to bring life to the dead and the seed of Abraham came to life and Sarah’s eggs came to life for the first time and Abraham and Sarah acted on their faith. (Belief is taking God at his word and faith is acting on his word.) They became one and gave birth to the promised child.

Here is the faith lesson: whatever you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth will come to pass.