

**Text For Today:**

**Genesis 15:1-6**

*15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, <sup>1</sup>your exceedingly great reward."<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I <sup>3</sup>go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one<sup>4</sup> born in my house is my heir!"<sup>4</sup> 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."<sup>5</sup> 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."<sup>6</sup> And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

**Galatians 3:5-9**

*<sup>5</sup> Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."<sup>7</sup> Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."<sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*

**The virtue of faith in God should be the highest priority.**

**The Character if Abraham gives us two images:**

1. One where he **highjacked** the promise of God putting faith in his **own hands**.
  - a. Resulting in **Ishmael**
  - b. **Pressure** of **waiting**
  - c. **Pressure** to **over-react**
  
2. One where he displayed an **unmistakable** faith in an **all-knowing** God.
  - a. Resulting in **Isaac**
  - b. The **pressure** was turned to **trust**.

## Lessons to learn from Abraham.

1. God wants to **use** us in spite of our **sinful mistakes**
  - a. **2 Timothy 2:11-13** <sup>11</sup> *This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.* <sup>12</sup> *If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.* <sup>13</sup> *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*
  - b. **Genesis 17:1-2** *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am [a]Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.*
  
2. **Genuine** faith **pleases** God
  - a. **Galatians 3:6** <sup>6</sup> *just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*
  - b. **James 2:23** *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God*
  
3. Believe that God will **keep** His **promises.**
  - a. **2 Corinthians 5:7** <sup>7</sup> *for we walk by faith not by sight*
    - i. **Abrahams faith wasn't a blind faith; his faith was a settled assurances and trust in the One who had proved Himself faithful and true**
  - b. **1 Peter 1:24-25** <sup>4</sup> *because "All flesh is as grass, And all [a]the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup> But the [b]word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.*
  - c. **Hebrews 11:12** <sup>12</sup> *Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore*

### Your character will be one of two images:

*One where they can only see you, or  
One where they see Christ in your life*