

We've been talking about faith. We walk by faith when we listen carefully to God and do what he says in spite of what we may see in the natural. We trust God completely to fulfill his promises. Our faith can grow as we study the word, pray and ask God for more. We want to be people of faith.

☞ Faith is Firm

Romans 4:18-22

v. 18... Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Abraham became a mighty man of God simply because he believed. "Against all hope..." it seemed so impossible, yet Abraham believed God.

Genesis 15:5-6

He (God) took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars — if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 *Abram believed* the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

James 2:23

"*Abraham believed* God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

Romans 4:11

he (Abraham) is the father of all who believe

Faith is the key to being a Christian. You can't even be a Christian without faith. All the promises of God will be fulfilled by faith. The things we look forward to, both now and in eternity, all hinge upon faith. We must have faith!

1. ☞ Faith can face the Facts v. 19

Sometimes people have a misconception about faith and think it requires lying about your situation.

v. 19... Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about a hundred years old — and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Facing facts doesn't have to weaken your faith. Abraham is clearly given credit for believing God and yet the facts caused him to have some real doubts...

Genesis 17:17

Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

--John Drummond... Christ never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is can't believe; unbelief is won't believe. Doubt is honesty; unbelief is obstinacy. Doubt is looking for light; unbelief is content with darkness.

The facts in Abraham's case (that he was 100 years old) gave him doubt, but he chose to believe God anyway. **Facts might cause doubt, but you can still choose to believe.**

--Oswald Chambers... Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.

--Helen Keller... It need not discourage us if we are full of doubts. Healthy questions keep faith dynamic. Unless we start with doubts we cannot have a deep-rooted faith.

--Joyce Meyer... When doubt comes against us, we have to lift up the shield of faith. We do this when we open our mouth and say what God's Word says, rather than grumbling and complaining about the problem.

When you wrestle with those doubts and come out on the other end still believing, your faith will be that much stronger. Abraham faced the facts and overcame his doubts. He wasn't in denial or self-deception; he didn't pretend that he wasn't old...

v. 19...he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead...

So, he faced the facts, had some doubts, but he still believed God. **Don't let your circumstances cloud your confidence in the Lord!**

Hebrews 11:11

...he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

In spite of the facts and in spite of his doubts, Abraham knew that God was faithful and would keep his promises. There are facts, and then there are facts - supernatural facts. God's facts trumped Abraham's facts!

--Donald Barnhouse... True faith acts on supernatural facts and gets supernatural results.

Faith can face the facts.

2. Faith does not Falter v. 20

v. 20... Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

The facts and the doubts did not lead to unbelief. His faith was firm and did not falter.

☞ **Circumstances don't shake faith.**

Psalms 125:1

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

Isaiah 7:9

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.

Abraham had some doubts, but still believed. And he put his belief into action...

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham... obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

God will call us beyond our comfort zones and then we have a choice to make... go with God or stay in our comfort zone.

--Charles R. Swindoll... Retreating to the safety of the familiar is an understandable response, but God has called us to a life of faith. And faith requires us to face the unknown while trusting Him completely.

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham... offered Isaac as a sacrifice... reasoned that God could raise the dead

Abraham had moved beyond his doubts, and his faith would not falter. He knew Isaac ☞ was the promise, so he knew that **somehow God would work things out**, even if it meant raising the dead. God could and would do it. Believe whatever God says, no matter how unbelievable it seems.

Noah built the ark over a long time period with no indication of rain all while being mocked by the people.

Moses, in spite of his difficulty with speaking, confronted Pharaoh who was the most powerful man on the earth at the time.

Joshua fought using some very strange tactics even though Jericho was a powerful, fortified city.

--Samuel Gordon... Faith is blind to impossibilities and deaf to doubt. It listens only to God.

And because faith listens only to God, it does not falter. God always keeps his promises.

☞ FAITH = Fantastic Adventures In Trusting Him

3. ☞ Faith is Fully Persuaded v. 21

v. 21...being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

☞ Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.

Faith in Christ is more than mere intellectual assent. It is believing with the heart, with the will, with adoration and with action. It's fully persuaded.

As we've seen... Noah built a boat in the middle of the desert. Joshua attacked Jericho with trumpets. Abraham went even though he didn't know where he was going. In fact, Abraham's promise was a long time coming. It was 25 years before Isaac was born. And, it was quite a few years after that before he actually owned any of the Promised Land. But he persisted in his faith because he was fully persuaded that God would come through.

God can do what he says...

Romans 4:17

...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

☞ Matthew 19:26

with God all things are possible.

Luke 1:37

nothing is impossible with God.

In 2 Kings 7 Samaria was under siege and it went on long enough that the people started turning to cannibalism. But God told Elisha that the next day there would be plenty for everyone. One of the officers of the king would not believe it, being convinced it was not possible. But Elisha was fully persuaded and stuck to his story and added that the officer would not get to enjoy any of it. And guess what... God came through exactly as he had said. The besieging army thought they heard Hittites and Egyptians attacking them so they fled and left all their supplies behind. There was plenty for everyone and in the midst of the stampede to collect all the stuff, the officer who refused to believe was trampled to death. An utterly impossible situation was turned around simply because God promised it.

Do you have an impossible situation? God is bigger than your circumstances. What is God saying about your situation? Go clear back to our first talk about walking by faith... Listen to what God is saying. Then trust God! God always tells the truth; God is always good.

--DL Moody... *God never made a promise that was too good to be true.*

☛ Faith can face the Facts

Faith does not Falter

Faith is Fully Persuaded

- ✓ We believe God wants to bring revival to our church.
- ✓ We believe God wants to heal people with various illnesses.
- ✓ We believe God wants to continue growing this church.

1. We can face the facts: we're not quite there yet.
2. But we don't falter; we still believe, at the right time, these things will come to be.
3. By studying the Scripture and reviewing the promises we are becoming fully persuaded.

What about you? Struggling with the facts of your situation? Is your faith being challenged? Is your faith faltering? Not quite fully persuaded? Choose to believe God! Stand firm in your faith!

Give me Faith