

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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PART 6: JOURNEY OF FAITH

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

The apostle Paul greatly admired Abraham's faith as it grew during his lifetime. **Romans 4:17**

When Abraham was called by God to go to the land of Canaan, he had faith that God had spoken to him, but he did not have a personal relationship with God. **Genesis 12:1-7**

Abraham's faith in the beginning was weak. When he traveled to Egypt, he did not actually believe that God could protect him. **Genesis 12:10-20**

Abraham was not a coward when it came to warfare. **Genesis 14:13-16**

God told Abraham that he would be protected and have a child that would be his heir. **Genesis 15:1-5**

Abraham believed God. **verse 6**

But he did not trust that God would protect him. **Genesis 20:1-18**

THE UNBELIEF OF SARAH

Abraham was 85 years old when Sarah told him about her plan to have a child. Sarah had passed child bearing age and she thought the only way to have a son was to help God by using her maid. Abraham's faith in God at this time was zero and he agreed to marry and procreate with Hagar. **Genesis 16:1-3**

Even the best laid plans will not work when a person is not in God's will. When Hagar found out she was pregnant, she began to despise Sarah. **verses 4-5**

Abraham now had two wives who did not get along with each other, and instead of putting Sarah in her place, he allowed Sarah to abuse Hagar. **verse 6**

THE TRANSFER OF UNBELIEF

Unbelief is a demonic force that transferred from Sarah to Abraham. Only an encounter with the Lord Jesus turned Abraham around when he was offered a personal covenant with God. **Genesis 17:1-10**

The Lord spoke a personal message to Abraham, who was so full of unbelief that he fell down to the ground laughing. As far as Abraham was concerned, God could not make a 90 year old woman fertile. It was simply absurd that Sarah could make love to her 100 year old husband and conceive. **verse 17**

Abraham in his mind reduced God to the level of a man that could not perform miracles. Abraham felt that the best God could do was to accept Ishmael as the heir. **verse 18**

God rejected the counter-proposal and stated that Sarah would have a son. **verse 19**



A VISIT BY JESUS

Abraham had heard the voice of God but never seen Him in previous encounters. Therefore, in order to drive out the unbelief, Jesus decided to visit Abraham with two angels. They took the form of men, but when Abraham saw them coming, he knew it was the Lord. Abraham did not know that God was triune; he just knew that God's name was Elohim which refers to God in plurality. From the book of Enoch, he knew there was a Son of Man that would come and pay for the sins of the mankind. This was his mindset when Jesus appeared and Abraham simply accepted the fact that the man in charge was the Lord. **Genesis 18:1-2**

Jesus established a personal relationship with Abraham in accepting a meal and the Bible does not record their conversation which lasted for several hours while the meal was prepared and then eaten. **verses 3-8**

Jesus told Abraham again that Sarah would conceive and have a son. Abraham did not object this time but Sarah laughed secretly. **verses 9-13**

Jesus stated that nothing is impossible for the Lord. **verse 14-15**

God is love and Abraham was in the presence of the Lord for several hours. The apostle John told us that perfect love casts out fear. **1 John 4:17-19**

Once Jesus and the angels had eaten, Abraham began walking with them as they went to Sodom. **Genesis 18:16**

Jesus told Abraham of His intention for Sodom and Gomorrah. **verses 17-22**

Abraham challenged Jesus with his new faith and boldness. **verses 23-33**

His faith in God was solidified the next day when he saw the smoke of the destroyed cities. **Genesis 19:27-29**

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

We are told by the apostle James that faith without works is dead. **James 2:14-18**

Abraham and Sarah began living out their faith by making love on a regular basis. All the unbelief was gone and they came together expecting a miracle. **Romans 4:18-25**

Faith gave Sarah the expected miracle as Jesus supernaturally touched her reproductive organs and made her fertile again. **Hebrews 11:11**

There was great joy when Sarah realized she was pregnant and the child was named Isaac, which means "laughter." **Genesis 21:1-8**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?