

Date : 22nd February 2026
Theme : God's Story of Redemption from Genesis
Topic : Abraham – Can I trust God?
Passage : Genesis 12:3, Genesis 15, Genesis 17:18-21
Key Verse : ...*Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness... Genesis 15:6 (NIV)*

Introduction

We often attribute faith to special people, who are 'good' and favoured by God. Abraham is known as a man of faith. Paul wrote that Abraham was strong in faith, giving glory to God. He wasn't so in the beginning. How did he come to be this way? What was his journey like? We will see that faith is a journey, for all who are willing to trust God, walking, possibly failing but growing in relating with Him.

Today, we will consider the topic of trusting God (faith in God) in three areas:

- Problem in trusting God.
- Promises of God in building faith.
- Provisions of God (His mercies) in our failings.

1. Problems we face in trusting God.

a) Our idolatrous background

Everyone comes with his own ideas about God. Abram was born 292 years after the Flood. Only 10 generations away from the Flood, people had already forsaken the true God whom Noah had worshipped and who had delivered him from the Flood. Abram's father worshipped idols *Joshua 24:2*, especially the moon god of Mesopotamia.

Noah and Shem were still alive. Abram had 58 years to talk with Noah and the rest of his life with Shem who outlived him. Abram was called the *Hebrew* which means he spoke the language of Eber *Genesis 10:25; 11:16*, 6 generations apart and who was still alive.

How did Abram get to learn to trust God despite his idolatrous family background?

He might have heard stories passed down from his father, as each generation passed down their history to the next.

b) Problem of staying put in our comfort zone

Abram went with his father, Terah, and nephew, Lot, to the land of Canaan, making a pit stop at Haran. That pit stop became too long. Obedience is easily side-tracked and Abram was reluctant to leave familiar surroundings, hence his interim stay in Haran.

We must be careful with whom we travel in our faith journey. We may have starting out faith from our *Ur*, but if we have *Terahs* with us, we shall not go far. At age 75, Abram decided to pack up and head for Canaan, leaving his father Terah behind. Other relatives probably had settled in Haran too.

c) Problem of belonging

With the inconvenience of tent-dwelling versus city-living, what made him go out in faith?

- To whom do I belong?

A family. Which family? If Abram remained in *Ur*, he would be relying on his extended families. He would certainly have to comply with his seniors who were idolaters. Or could he start out in faith and begin his own family of faith.

- To which country do I belong?

Abram had to choose a nation God wanted him to build, one in which God would reveal Himself and ultimately the birth of His Son.

Scripture tells us he chose a city not built with hands *Hebrews 11:10*.

2. Promises of God are foundational in building faith.

Abraham believed the Lord and He credited it to him as righteousness... Genesis 15:6

Abram's faith

10 generations after the Flood, Abram exercised faith to obey God's call when he heard it.

a) Believe what?

- i) **Believe God's first call.** Leave his country and go to a land He would show him.
 - Why this call to separation?
To remove blessing blockers that prevented the fulfilment of God's promises to Abram. Like Abram, we are called to come out and be separate from people or habits that hinder our spiritual growth and destiny.

Contamination corrupts good character, hinders our spirit and blocks spiritual sight. We separate from an environment that opposes God so as to operate under a different agenda with God.

Separation sets you apart on a path to walk with God alone.

- ii) **Faith is believing God's promises.** God promised 5 things in *Genesis 12:1-3*:
 - Make his name great (Is it all about me?)
 - Make his nation great (That's wonderful! But his wife was barren)
 - Make him a great blessing to every family (Bless others? Not just me? How?)
 - Bless him (Yes! It's all about me!)
 - Blessing / cursing those who bless / curse him. (Is God serious?)
God further promised to give him the land. *Genesis 12:7*
 - Faith is believing what God has promised, **in His own time, His way.** Sometimes He tells exactly when and sometimes tied to a specific event. Example: Regarding Abram's descendants out of Egypt, (the exodus), it would be 400 years later.
 - In God's way
For Abram, no date was given for Isaac's birth when Abraham was 75 years old. Then, after 25 years of faith building, the Lord told the couple that baby Isaac would arrive a year later. God had planned a miracle which could only take place after Abram and Sarai were way past child-bearing age.
 - In God's time
God is not just a promise-maker, but also a promise-keeper. His divine promises were not tied to a human time table (old age, barrenness) and Isaac's birth (25 years after God's promise) was divine timing.

God's promises are utterly trustworthy designed for our good. The waiting period is an internship in faith-building with God in whom we are learning to trust.

iii) Faith is believing God's global vision.

His faith to impact all families worldwide *Genesis 12:3*.

...Abraham...received the promise that he would be heir of the world...through righteousness that comes by faith...Romans 4:13.

Common thinking: *I thought God is blessing just me! How come God had others in mind?*

b) Believe who?

To whom did Abram build an altar to?

Immediately, after his initial encounter with the Lord, Abram built an altar to the LORD YHWH, calling on the Name of the Lord. *Genesis 12:8*

Why is calling on the Name of the Lord significant?

Looking back at Adam & Eve — when their third son Seth was born, they began to call on the Name of the Lord *Genesis 4:26*. So like Adam and Eve before, Abram build an altar to the Lord at Shechem. When he moved to Bethel, he again built an altar *Genesis 13:4*. God's appearance to him twice, when he worshipped, validated his faith journey.

3. Provisions of God when we fall from grace *Genesis 12:10 to Genesis 15*

- (a) to (c) God's righteousness
- (d) to (e) God's covenant
- (f) God's purpose

Problem: Did God choose Abraham because he was a 'good' person?

Why did God choose Abram when he did not act honourably in Egypt?

Was Abram justified to head for Egypt for survival's sake?

Was Abram justified to lie about his relationship with Sarai?

If not, could Abram still be considered righteous? A 'good' person?

Romans tells us there is none good, no, not one.

Then what qualified Abram to be considered righteous?

- a) God imputes His righteousness when we believe in Him.
...Abram believed the Lord... Genesis 15:6

Result?

God credited to him **righteousness**. To credit is to put something onto his account. Abram had zero righteousness. He was 'not good'. Only God is good and He puts His righteousness on Abram when he believed God. God's righteousness is His own character — every attribute, behaviour and every word, by which He measures righteousness.

- b) Why did God credit righteousness to Abram?
Abram's faith showed WHO he was relying on when he separated himself.
- c) Where was God when Abram faltered in faith and detoured to Egypt?
God's instruction to Abram was Canaan, not Egypt. **God** did not speak to him but **protected** Sarai from Pharaoh. Abram experienced God's gracious care. Faith comes through experiencing His grace.

Thereafter, he made two faith decisions: Abram returned to Bethel, to a life of worship and he separated from Lot. *Genesis 13*

His trust in the Lord was choosing to be where the Lord had assigned him. Remaining in Canaan and settling in Hebron, putting down roots at Mamre and making new friends, like Aner and Eschol who later assisted him in his rescue plans when Lot was captured by Chedorlaomer. *Genesis 14:13*

Abraham demonstrated his faith in God by action = active obedience.

d) **God's covenant with Abram.** *Genesis 15*

Bring your doubts to the Lord.

- When God promised Abram an offspring, he posted a question:
Lord God, how shall I know...? Genesis 15:8
- Why did God confirm His promise with a covenant-cutting ritual?
 - God pledged Himself, not possessions
 - God deeded property to Abram (from the Nile to the Euphrates)
Genesis 15:18.

e) Why did **God give** Abram and Sarai **new names**? *Genesis 17:4-6, 15-16.*

The new names Abraham and Sarah,

- Represented God's grace in their transformation
- Signified new identity and roles
Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude)
Sarai (my princess) to Sarah (princess of many)
- Transformed status — from childless to parents of nations.

f) **God's purpose** — Why did God make them wait so long?

This was not about Abraham having a child although his thought was just about having an heir. God's higher purpose provided him an opportunity to partner with God, just as He did with Noah.

- It was God's fulfilment that One of Abraham's offsprings would bless the whole earth.
Who was this person?
 - Who promised the covenant line leading to the Deliverer?
(The covenant line from Abraham to Christ *Matthew 1.*)
 - Who planned an ark for Salvation?
 - Who provided the Covering for Adam and Eve instead of their fig leaves?

Application

Abraham delighted in God's will.

What do I delight in? Do I delight in the things that God delights (faith, obedience, blessing others etc)?

In life's journey, I expect that there will be twists and turns in my fortune.

Times when God seemed to delay in answering my prayers.

Can I wait for His timing and His ways to provide for my needs?

- How will I do this?
