

The Deal is Still On

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 15

God's promise to Abraham.

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:2-3

God promised Abram that He will bless him, and He repeatedly said that he will. But Abram being human like us asked God how it would happen for he was childless (Genesis 15:2). But God reaffirmed and reassured Abram that his offspring shall be as many as the stars in heaven. Abram did not need to count stars above, but he then focused on God and believed Him and in His promise. For this, it was credited to him as righteousness.

Galatians 3:29 says ***And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*** As heirs of Abraham, we too can be a part of this promise. We too can be made fruitful. We too can become prosperous. Included in this promise is the God's promise of salvation.

Often times we forget to trust in God's promises to us. We focus on our situations, on our struggles and trials totally forgetting that God had promised to bless us. We have to realize that the difference between being blessed and being lost is the statement "Yes, Lord I believe." We have to learn to leave the details to God, to simply trust in His character and focus on His promises.

What are the things that can hinder us from experiencing God's fulfilled promises in our life?

1. Fear

- We have so many fears, we surround ourselves with so much fear and anxiety.
- Isaiah 41: 10 ***Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.***
- Deuteronomy 31:6 also says ***Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.***
- Abram himself was afraid that is why in Genesis 15:1 God had to remind Abram not to be afraid.
- Let us not let fear rob us of our inheritance. It is when we focus on our fears that we lose the opportunity to enjoy God's blessings in our life.

2. The limit we set on ourselves

- We focus on ourselves, on our preconceived notions of weaknesses and limitations.
- We see through human eyes not giving God a chance to work in us and through us.
- The bible is not a book of super heroes but rather it a book of ordinary people who made mistakes, who faltered but who rose again and kept their eyes fixed on God. They allowed God to use them in order to fulfill His plans.
- Let us not let these so-called limitations hinder us from experiencing God's blessing in our life.

- Often times its not because we question God to fulfill His promises to us but most often we disqualify ourselves and limit what God can do for us.

The Object of our Faith. God’s promises have never changed or faltered. God’s faithfulness has never changed. He has never changed. He is constant. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

When God makes a promise, it is His will. The commitment is all God’s part. We just have to respond by faith (Hebrews 11:1). The object of our faith is God. The focus of our faith is on God’s character. But the problem is: what if we do not know the Lord, how can we respond in faith?

If we allow doubt and destructive thinking to cripple our faith, we become de-focused and become distracted to hinder obedience, we will not realize the full blessing God intends. Our part is to respond in faith and obedience.

We can only appropriate God's blessings if the object of our faith is solely on God. God had so much in store for your life. He wants to bless your marriage, your relationships, your career, your business, your ministry and even our dreams. But if we do not focus on who God is, and that is He is more than capable of fulfilling His promises, then we are less likely to realize the full abundance of God’s promise.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Read Genesis 14 . What are your insights? What is God’s message for you through the story of Lot?

	<p>Personal: Knowing God. Make a list of all the attributes and characteristics of God that you have personally experienced in your life. Struggles. What are the things you are struggling with? Fears? Limits you have set on your life? God’s promises. What are the promises that you are holding on to?</p>
	<p>Family: What can you learn from Abram in this passage? Try imagine what he was going through as he tried to imagine what God was promising him. How do you think he felt? What can we learn from Abram’s choice to obey and believe even though he did not understand? Pass it on! God had blessed us. How can we as a family share our blessings to others?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: How are you becoming a blessing to others? One way is to share the gospel with those who have not yet come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Make a list of the people you want to share God’s gift of salvation with. How are you growing as a Christian? Are you complacent with your walk or are you continually striving to become more and more like Christ? Do you immerse yourself in His word?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Look back at the list of people you want to share the gospel with. Make an effort this week to invite them to our Weekend Encounter on October 31 and November 1. Pray for our church event and for the people who will come to attend.</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.