

1. How to Develop Strong Faith

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Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV) *Now **the just shall live by faith**; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.*

- We are re-visiting the subject of faith
- We are 'priming the pump' again to take our personal faith to new levels
 - Strong Faith in God
 - Strong Faith in God's Word
 - Strong Faith in the Name of Jesus Christ
 - Strong Faith in God's promises
- As believers, we are called to live by faith & walk by faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

1. Weak faith or strong faith

- When we speak of strong faith, Abraham's faith is a good starting point!
- God made a covenant with Abraham (Abram) & promised him that he would become the father of many nations
- At the time of the promise(s), Abraham had no children (Gen. 15:2) - his wife Sarai was barren
- Thus began a 25 year journey of faith for Abraham & his wife Sarah:
 - from the time that God gave the initial promise (Gen. 12:2)
 - to the time that Isaac was born (Gen. 21:1-3)
- Abraham was 75 years old when God promised him descendants
- He was 100 years old when Isaac was born
- Sometimes people say that Abraham was waiting 25 years for God to give him a son
- But actually, God was waiting for 25 years for Abraham to develop his faith to receive a son
- God has already given us all things, all we have to do is receive them!

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) *As His divine power **has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue*

- Notice: ... has given us all things ... (past tense)

Romans 4:18–20 (KJV) (Abraham) *Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be. 19 And **being not weak in faith**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but **was strong in faith**, giving glory to God;*

- These verses communicate several key truths about the operation of faith
- Who against hope believed ...
 - When we learn to walk by faith, we begin to lift our expectations above the natural limitations (Sarah’s barrenness & their age)
- According to what was spoken– “so shall your seed be” (the promise!)
- Abraham’s faith was based on two pillars:
 - God’s goodness (God’s character, God’s willingness to provide)
 - God’s promise: “so shall your seed be” (stars, sand).
- Being not weak in faith – Abraham didn’t allow his faith to be weakened through natural limitations (Sarah’s barrenness & their old age)
- Was strong in faith
 - NKJ. ... was strengthened in faith
 - ESV. ... grew strong in faith
- Abraham didn’t start out with strong faith
- He developed his faith to become strong enough to receive a son

2. From general promises of descendants, to a specific promise of a son

- In God’s dealings with Abraham, to get him to a place of strong faith, God communicated His promises to Abraham, over and over again
- God initially started out by promising Abraham “descendants”, before promising him “a son”
- God’s promises went from “general” to “specific”
 - “descendants” is somewhat general
 - But “a son” is quite specific
- (our faith also grows stronger when we move from “general” to “specific”)

3. God repeated His promises to Abraham, over and over again

- I will make you a great nation (Gen. 12:2)
- To your descendants I will give this land (Ge. 12:7)
- All the land you see I will give to your descendants forever (Gen. 13:15)
- I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth (Ge. 13:16)
- One who will come from your own body shall be your heir (Ge. 15:4)

- Look towards heaven, count the stars - so shall your descendants be (Gen. 15:5)
- [Abraham believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6)]
- Your descendants will be strangers in a land that isn't theirs (Gen. 15:13)
- Afterwards they will come out with great possessions (Gen. 15:14)
- In the fourth generation they shall return here [to Canaan] (Gen. 15:16)
- The Lord made a covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:18)
- To your descendants I have given this land (Gen. 15:18)
- [After 10 years in Canaan, Abraham fathered Ishmael through Hagar (Gen. 16:3)]
- I will multiply you exceedingly (Gen. 17:2)
- You shall be a father of many nations (Gen. 17:3)
- God changed Abraham's name, from Abram to Abraham (Gen. 17:5)
 - Abram: Exalted one
 - Abraham: Father of a multitude
- I have made you a father of many nations (Gen. 17:5)
- I will make you exceedingly fruitful (Gen. 17:6)
- I will make nations of you (Gen. 17:6)
- Kings shall come from you (Gen. 17:6)
- I will establish My covenant between Me & you & your descendants after you (Gen. 17:7)
- I will be God to you & your descendants after you (Gen. 17:7)
- I give to you & your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession (Gen. 17:8)
- I will be their God (Gen. 17:8)
- You shall keep My covenant, you & your descendants after you (Gen. 17:9)
- My covenant is with you & your descendants after you (Gen. 17:10)
- Every male child shall be circumcised (Gen. 17:10)
- As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name (Gen. 17:15)
 - Sarai – princess
 - Sarah – mother of princes
- And I will bless her and also give you a son by her (Gen. 17:16)
- She shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her (Gen. 17:16)
- God said: Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac (Gen. 17:19)

4. How did Abraham move from general faith to specific (strong) faith?

- General faith (in God & His Word) is good and necessary:
 - God is good
 - He is my Healer
 - He is my Provider
 - He supplies all my needs
 - He watches over me
 - Etc.
- Specific faith is necessary to receive specific things from God
 - I receive healing from God for a specific ailment
 - I receive a pay increase in the next pay review
 - I receive a breakthrough in my family circumstances

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) *So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

- Faith only comes one way – that is - by hearing the Word of God
- Strong faith comes by hearing God's promises, over and over again
- Faith for healing comes from hearing (repeatedly) healing Scriptures
- Faith for prosperity comes from hearing (repeated) prosperity Scriptures
- Etc.

5. Find a Scripture that covers your specific need, and repeat to yourself

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) *For **all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen**, to the glory of God through us.*

- In Him – in Jesus Christ
- The written promises of God are the title-deed to our:
 - Salvation
 - Healing
 - Protection
 - Prosperity

2 Peter 1:2–4 (NKJV) *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*