



# FAITH *shot*

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*Message preached on Sunday Morning, April 12, 2026*

We are a faith church. So, we need to make sure that our faith is strong...which only comes by "hearing the Word of God" regarding faith over and over and over (Romans 10:17).

Today, I want to help us kick our faith up a level...to get it from stalled to working.

Romans 4:18-21 (talking about Abraham)

18 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;

21 **And being fully persuaded that**, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

**WE KNOW:** Abraham produced Isaac by faith.

**HOWEVER:** When most people read this passage they immediately think that from the time Abraham was called at 75 until the birth of his son at 100 he NEVER staggered...never, ever, ever! 'Cause it says it right here.

**THE TRUTH** is Abraham struggled for quite a while...until at least 99 years old (see verse 19).

Calling his wife his sister so she would get married to the Pharaoh? Struggle.

Having relations with Hagar to produce Ishmael? Struggle.

Genesis 12 – Abraham is called by God...blessed.

He is blessed...because he gets a lot of stuff (Genesis 13:1,2)

Genesis 14 – Abraham brings His tithe after spoiling the enemy (his increase).

Genesis 15 – God shows up to Abraham!

**NOTE:** Abe tithes...God shows up and says this...

Genesis 15:1 – "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."

**QUESTION:** Just a coincidence? Tithe...God introduces himself as the quickly increasing financial supply?

**NOTE:** I believe God is saying...no need to play games in the worlds system (Egypt, spoils, etc.), just keep doing what I tell you to do and you will grow financially...quickly.

**Abraham replies:**

2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, **what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless**, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

**NOTICE:** Abraham's wording...SEEING I go childless!

His greatest struggle is what he was seeing around him. He had this blessing of him living on forever... his seed being blessed...generation to generation.

**YET,** all he could SEE what was NOT in front of him. What he was lacking.

**QUICK QUESTION:** How about you? Do you believe the Word of God (yep)? Do you know what God has promised (yep)? You've heard it preached!

**HOWEVER:** Do you keep looking around you at what hasn't happened yet?

Is what you are LACKING much more visible than what God has promised?

Yeah!?

Maybe you see people who are giving a lot struggle...or you see that whenever you have tithed or sown a see you just had to do without it, instead of a return.

That is the way most Christians live their lives.

We fight the things that we SEE with our natural eyes, everyday!

That is why they struggle to be generous...they struggle to obey!

God knew Abraham was struggling...Abe wasn't seeing it.

Exodus 15:5-6

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

I can almost see Abraham say, "Yeah! That is what I was thinking you were saying back when you called me. I knew it! Now I can see it.

**NOW:** Every time he looked outside in the middle of the night and saw the vast number of stars in the sky...he saw his children...he saw Isaac.

Genesis 16 comes along and guess what...so does Ishmael.

**UNDESTAND:** You can believe and still struggle. You can kinda see, but not fully see.

Time can diminish your picture.

**UNDERSTAND:** Abraham had no problem believing for the MASSIVE amounts of descendents...but he was struggling with the start...how to start it all.

God knows it and shows up again about 13 years later in Genesis 17.

This time He doesn't want Abraham to have any question...he has the stars to look at, now God is going to paint a picture with His words, so there is NO question.

\* He gives him details of what to do with his children (circumcision, etc.)

\* He changes their names to Abraham (father of many) and Sarah (mother of nations).

**NOTICE:** Now, every time they heard someone call out their name...they were being reminded of the starts...of their descendents...of the promise. They were adjusting their vision to see the promise fulfilled.

**NOTE:** Now you know why we don't talk negative?

Guess what happens in ONE YEARS time? Baby Isaac shows up!

All because the picture became alive in him. Not just a concept.

Proverbs 29:18 - "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

**NOTICE:** Two parts of this verse:

1.) No vision...people perish (die or fail).

2.) Keep the law (the Word)...they are happy!

Those are two very opposite results and two very opposite causes!

(WEB) - "**Where there is no revelation**, the people cast off restraint; but one who keeps the law is blessed."

(NIV) - "**Where there is no revelation**, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."

"**Perish**" - set at nought, perish...get loose is also in the definition.

"**No vision**" - no revelation...no SEEING!

2 Corinthians 4:18 - "**While we look not at the things which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but **the things which are not seen** are eternal."

We don't LOOK AT (see) things that are SEEN (natural)...they are temporal.

We should LOOK AT (see) things that are UNSEEN (spiritual)...they are eternal.

## Conclusion

We must change what we are seeing...not what we are NOT seeing!

The only way we can do that is to get into the Word and see who we really are!

