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FIRST IN FAITH

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

# THE FIRST STEP OF FAITH

## FIRST IN FAITH, PART 1

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” (Hebrews 11:8)

“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.” (James 2:23)

“The human race seemed verging again on the brink of those horrible and unnatural crimes that had already necessitated its almost total destruction in the days of Noah, and it was evident that some means must be quickly adopted to stop the progress of moral defilement and to save mankind.” F.B. Meyer

“The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it.” (Ezekiel 22:30)

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’” (Genesis 12:1)

## LESSON 1: FAITH BEGINS WITH \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters’, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

## LESSON 2: GOD DOESN'T GIVE REASONS; HE GIVES \_\_\_\_\_ .

“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”  
(Genesis 12:2-3)

“If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (Matthew 19:21)

*We see the command and ask “Why should I?”  
We ought to see the promise and say “How can I?”*

## LESSON 3: THE REWARD OUTWEIGHS THE COST, BUT IT NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ IT.

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

# EVEN GIANTS MAKE MISTAKES

## FIRST IN FAITH, PART 2

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13)

### KEY THOUGHT:

**GOD’S PROMISE IS BASED MORE ON WHO HE IS VERSES WHAT I DO.**

*See Genesis 12:1-20*

MISTAKE #1: BE CAREFUL \_\_\_\_\_  
YOU TAKE ON YOUR JOURNEY.

“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”  
(1 Corinthians 15:33)

“The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.” (Acts 7:2-4)

“We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

EARTH’S \_\_\_\_\_ IS  
NO MATCH FOR GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_ .

# MISTAKE #2: REACTING TO \_\_\_\_\_ VS RELYING ON \_\_\_\_\_

“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!” (Isaiah 31:1)

“I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.” (Psalm 37:25)

## **SEEING GOD THROUGH THE DIFFICULTY? OR SEEING THE DIFFICULTY THROUGH GOD?**

“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities... For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” (Psalm 103:10, 14)

**WHEN A GOOD FATHER SEES HIS CHILD IN  
TROUBLE, HE DOESN'T DESTROY HIM;  
HE \_\_\_\_\_ HIM.**

“When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people, He permitted no one to do them wrong; yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, saying, 'Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm.'” (Psalm 105:13-15)

# ABRAHAM GOES STARGAZING

## FIRST IN FAITH, PART 3

### GENESIS 15:1-6

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ But Abram said, ‘Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’”

And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.’ Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’

And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

“He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.”  
(Psalm 147:4)

NEVER ALLOW \_\_\_\_\_  
TO LIMIT AN INFINITE GOD.

“‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

WE NEED MORE GAZING AT THE \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
LESS STARING AT \_\_\_\_\_ .

[Abraham] "...who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.' And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform." (Romans 4:18-21)

**FAITH IS NOT AGAINST LOGIC BUT \_\_\_\_\_ IT.**

**LOGIC QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_ .**

**FAITH QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_ .**

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20)

# BLAMELESS BEFORE GOD

## FIRST IN FAITH, PART 4

“Therefore you shall be PERFECT, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”  
(Matthew 5:48)

*perfect = blameless = whole, complete, lacking nothing*

### KEY THOUGHT:

BEING PERFECT ISN'T ABOUT HAVING NO SIN;  
IT'S ABOUT HAVING AN \_\_\_\_\_ .

*See Genesis 16-17*

THE KEY TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE IS  
HAVING \_\_\_\_\_ .

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

“Saying ‘whatever’ to God will open new doors of blessing and unlock hidden treasures that God wants to pour into your life...God had a plan for my life, but I just couldn’t see it all those years. It wasn’t until I accepted His plan – even though I didn’t know what it would contain at the time – that He started to reveal it to me. And I’d be lying if I said I got it all figured out now. Not even close! God will continue more and more of His plan as long as I continue to say ‘whatever’ to it.” *Excerpt from “Whatever, God”*

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27)

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.” (Genesis 17:1)

***GOD WILL NEVER CEASE TO SPEAK  
TO HIM WHO IS ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN.***

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

# ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

## FIRST IN FAITH, PART 5

YOU'LL NEVER REACH \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHTS,  
WITHOUT LETTING GO OF \_\_\_\_\_ PLACES.

"Then God said: 'No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.'" Genesis 17:19-21

"And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac... Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him." Genesis 21:1-5

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:5-8

IN THE FLESH: \_\_\_\_\_ DO IT  
IN THE SPIRIT: I CAN'T, BUT \_\_\_\_\_

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me... For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

\_\_\_\_\_ MYSELF THAT I CAN'T,  
OR \_\_\_\_\_ MYSELF TO REACH BEYOND.

“For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.” Romans 9:6-8

# THE FINAL TEST

## FIRST IN FAITH, PART 6

CENTRAL LESSON:  
**THE REWARD OF FAITH ALWAYS OUTWEIGHS THE COST,  
BUT IT NEVER PRECEDES IT.**

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”  
2 Chronicles 16:9

### LESSONS FROM GENESIS 22

**THE NEXT TEST IS GIVEN TO TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL.**

“Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am'.” Genesis 22:1

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.” Psalm 34:8-10

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

“He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.” 1 John 2:4-5

## **GOD CALLS US TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO GIVE US MORE.**

“Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” Genesis 22:2

### **ABRAHAM LEARNED TO RUN TO GOD NOT FROM GOD.**

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.” Hebrews 11:17-19

### **HE TRUSTED NOT THAT THE DEAD CAN BE RAISED, BUT THAT GOD KEEPS HIS WORD.**

“My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together.” Genesis 22:8

## **GOD PROVIDES AT THE MOUNTAIN OF SACRIFICE; NEVER BEFORE IT.**

**“'ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS  
ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' AND HE  
WAS CALLED THE FRIEND OF GOD.” JAMES 2:23**

