

**Worship:**

Battle Belongs - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=johgSkNj3-A>

You Never Let Go - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM14VZVu0og>

In Christ Alone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ>

---

## The LORD's Covenant With Abram

**Genesis 15** After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,<sup>a</sup>

your very great reward.<sup>b</sup>"

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit<sup>c</sup> my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring<sup>d</sup> be."

<sup>6</sup> **Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

"Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham, I am one of them and so are you – so let's all praise the Lord ....." Ha ha 😊

Remember that one from Sunday School? .... Well we are – we are sons and daughters of Abraham, heirs of salvation, heirs of the promises of God – to inherit all God's riches at Christ's expense – Sons and daughters of the Living God! ....

God knows the plans He has for us - plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future! ... He is faithful, always believing in us and for us, always speaking if we are prepared to listen.

Apart from the obviously perfect relationship Jesus had with His Father in Heaven, I have always been inspired by the relationship Abraham had with God. They talked! God spoke, Abraham asked questions, God responded, Abraham pleaded for souls, God responded – God loved that He had a man to live in that very existence and experience for which God created mankind in the first place! To fellowship, to relate, to walk in the cool of the day, to LOVE each other!

*\*\*\*Disclaimer\*\*\* I believe in prayer! I believe in prayer that pushes through. I believe in spiritual*

*warfare in contending for the things of God – in taking ground as the advancing church! I believe in petitioning prayer, asking God for all we need, I believe in casting all our cares on Him for He cares for us. .... I believe in this kind of prayer - I BELIEVE IN PRAYER \*\*\* End of disclaimer \*\*\**

However, I also believe that prayer is first and foremost the simple act of talking to, relating with and being with our Father in Heaven. Talking with God just as Abraham did, as Moses did, as Jesus did at every opportunity – as friends of God, sons and daughters – and in this relationship to hear God’s voice, to hear His words of love, to hear His heart for us and those around us and to hear His promises – His Word!

In Abraham’s relationship (prayer life) with God, it seems that once was enough! What I mean by that is, Abraham brought his plea for a child to the Lord and the Lord answered and Abraham believed what God said and then that was it! Deal done, signed, sealed delivered! If one of our children asked for something and we said “Yes”, then it stands to reason that they wouldn’t need to ask a second time (although in reality we know this not to be the case – ha ha!) In the same way, the prayer part was over – now was for the faith part – the standing on His word, the believing without wavering – just as the Apostle Paul teaches Timothy in 1 Tim 6:12 “to fight the good fight of faith.”

Sometimes when we are believing for the promises of God, when we have a word we believe God has spoken to us, we can be guilty of going back to the asking part of prayer all over again to which God may graciously answer us again and again but He is really looking for our faith – our solid belief in what He has already said ... Then we can focus on just loving Him, worshipping Him and living our lives out in faith in Him ☺.

## Faith in Action

**Hebrews 11** <sup>1</sup> Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

Faith is not a wishy-washy, stab in the dark hope for something we want, or want to happen – rather it is the alignment of our belief in what we have **heard from God** – both from the truth of His written Word, and from His personal word to us in our relationship with Him!

**Hebrews 11** <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, **when warned about things not yet seen**, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, **when called to go to a place** he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Both Noah and Abraham in Hebrews 11 had faith in what they had **heard from God** and acted in accordance with what they were believing! God’s Word to Abraham was passed down to Isaac and Jacob who also believed, Joseph believed in the dreams God gave him, Moses believed God’s Word to him to deliver the Israelites from captivity, Joshua believed God’s Word to him in taking the land, following all the instructions God gave him ... and on and on and on ...

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God ... Hearing the Word of God comes from having a relationship with Him in personal prayer and reading the Bible and entrusting to God everything and anything in our lives ....

**Proverbs 3** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in **all your ways** submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.<sup>[a]</sup>

In all you ways ... no matter how small, no matter how big, God is waiting, wanting, desiring to be involved, to make the paths straight, to divide the Red Sea, to provide, sustain, encompass and deliver – TO GIVE US HIS WORD.

Get a WORD! ... Hear what He is saying.

**Job 33** <sup>14</sup> For God may speak in one way, or in another,  
*Yet man does not perceive it.*

**Jeremiah 33** <sup>3</sup> 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and  
show you great and <sup>[a]</sup>mighty things, which you do not  
know.'

Finally, a small testimony – Over a decade ago, myself and Sarah (along with quite a few other young couples in our church) were struggling to get pregnant – it was hard to deal with and it lasted over 3 years! During this time, in constant prayer that God would bless us with children I received a word from God and received a picture of a meadow with flowers popping up everywhere: *Song of Solomon 2:12 "The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."* Within a very short space of time, some friends of ours found out they were pregnant – but not us – then another couple – but not us! ... So in somewhat of an emotional rampage I had a "discussion" with the Lord on what His plans were exactly and once I'd let out some youthful steam I returned to just believing His Word, thanking Him for the miracles in our friends' lives and allowing those miracles to fuel my faith! .... The rest is history and my quiver is full! Thank You Jesus ...

His WORD is our hope, our comfort and our life source! – Ask Him for a fresh WORD, for a refresher of an old WORD and have faith – believing that He who has promised is faithful! Amen!

### **Psalm 119**

<sup>49</sup> Remember the word to Your servant,  
Upon which You have caused me to hope.  
<sup>50</sup> This *is* my comfort in my affliction,  
For Your word has given me life.

### **Ending Song:**

Lauren Daigle – You Say - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZvKJl1kK8g>