How God Makes Men

**Abraham - The Principle of Believing God Anyway**

How God Makes a Man’s Faith Stronger

God makes men by showing us how we can believe Him anyway in the face of what seem like impossible circumstances.

What is God calling you to trust Him for that makes you say, “Are You kidding me, God? How could that possibly happen?”

There is no Christian alive who always has faith and never doubts.

A man who once encouraged his wife to sleep with another man so he could get ahead. He also fathered a child with his housekeeper and later cut them both off financially. Once, when he was surrounded by thugs who had their eyes on his pretty wife, he pretended to be single to avoid getting roughed up. What kind of man would do those things? Would you be surprised to learn I’m talking about Abraham, the father of our faith (see Romans 4:16)?

# *Romans 4:16 King James Version (KJV)*

***16****Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*

*Romans 4:16 Amplified Bible (AMP)*

***16****Therefore, [inheriting] the promise depends entirely on faith [that is, confident trust in the unseen God], in order that it may be given as an act of grace [His unmerited favor and mercy], so that the promise will be [legally] guaranteed to all the descendants [of Abraham]—not only for those [Jewish believers] who keep the Law, but also for those [Gentile believers] who share the faith of Abraham, who is the [spiritual] father of us all—*

Abraham faced **three different tests** that, by degrees, you and I will also face—if we haven’t already.

**Test 1: Going without Knowing**

Will you believe God’s great promise for an invisible future or cling to the visible present? Genesis 12:1-4

Hebrews 11:8. By faith. Obeyed and went. Even though he did not know where he was going.

**Test 2: The Twenty-Five Year Wait**

Will you trust God to do what seems impossible?

Genesis 15:5-6 Gods Promise

***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.*

Now fast-forward to Abraham at ninety-nine years of age. It was now twenty-four years since he had left his homeland, and yet he still had no heir. But again God reaffirmed the promise that he would have a son with Sarah. Abrahams reaction was less than faithful. (see Genesis 17:1–17)

Hebrews 11:11 tells us, “By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.”

*Have you ever thought?*

Maybe I didn’t hear from God after all. Maybe I just imagined it.
Or maybe I’ve let God down. He’s changed His mind about giving me this thing.

Advice when these thoughts happen: **Start thinking in Bible time**

Peter said, “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (2 Peter 3:8).

“We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Corinthians 4:16–17)

**Test 3: Are you willing to give God the one thing you most want to keep?**

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. (Hebrews 11:17–19)

The test God put to Abraham is the same one Jesus puts to us: Are you willing to give up the one thing you most want to keep? For many of us, the one thing we most want to keep is our own lives, especially if we’re comfortable.

**When you start to question your faith in God**.

Read Proverbs 3:25–26

*Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.*

1. What has God called you to do that may look outrageous?

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1. You may have no idea what you’re getting into. The question He is asking you is simple: Will you do it anyway?

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