

WARM-UP

- Are you the kind of person who is quick to make a promise? Why do you think so?
- Have you ever received something promised to you that was beyond your expectations? Tell us what happened.
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how good are you in keeping your promises? Explain.

WORD *¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **ROMANS 4:19-21***

(Read also **ROMANS 4:13-22.**)

Paul highlighted the importance of believing God's promises by telling the story of Abraham, one of Israel's forefathers. Abraham was an old, wealthy man with a lot of properties and riches, but he had no heir. When God called him, he obeyed and believed God's promise by faith that he would have many descendants despite his old age. *No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God* (Romans 4:20). God honored Abraham's faith by fulfilling every promise He gave him. The gospel assures us that like Abraham, we can receive God's promises through faith. Today, let us look at two truths about God and His promises.

1 | God's promise is given and received by faith.

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. . . . ¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all . . . **ROMANS 4:13,16**

(Read also **GENESIS 12:1-4.**)

God gave Abraham a promise not because Abraham was an extraordinary man or because he deserved recognition. God wanted to bless the families and nations of the world through Abraham (Genesis 12:2,3). He desires to bless His people and promises to fulfill His plans for them. He wants us to know Him and have a relationship with Him. Hearing the very word of God, Abraham anchored his faith in Him and received God's promise. What are some of God's promises to you? What do you do to strengthen your faith in the one who gave those promises?

2

Our faith is strengthened when we are convinced that God keeps His promise.

²⁰No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

ROMANS 4:20,21

Abraham grew in his faith because he trusted that God is faithful to fulfill His promise. His body may have been *as good as dead*, but he believed in God, *who gives life to the dead*. Sarah's womb may have been barren, but God *calls into existence the things that do not exist* (Romans 4:17). While we may be facing seemingly impossible situations, we can confidently put our faith in God because He is willing and able to fulfill His promises. What impossible situation are you facing right now? What promise from God can you hold on to?

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APPLICATION

- Is there a promise you have been waiting on God to fulfill? What will you do every day to grow strong in your faith?
- What is God teaching you in this season as you wait for the fulfillment of His promises? Record your insights and go back to them whenever you find yourself feeling anxious.
- Who can you encourage to continue to trust God's promises this week? Commit to call or send a message to the person, and share about God's faithfulness in your life.

