

Life Group and Personal Questions

1. Abraham remained faithful to God even after hearing nothing from God for 13 years. This kind of patience and faithfulness can be no small challenge. How might the following verses help us remain faithful and patient even when God seems to be silent?

Psalm 37:7–9 & James 5:7–11

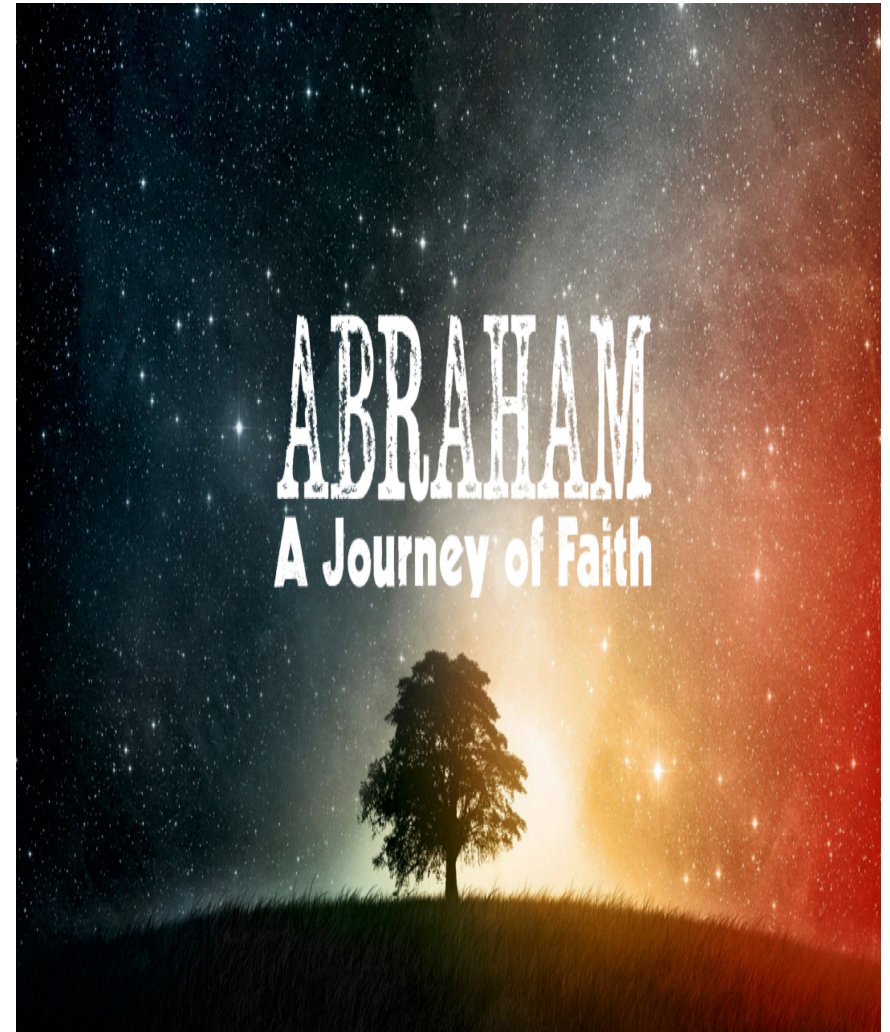
2. The passage in James also talks about submitting to God and resisting the devil. Are there any commands of God or plans of God that you have a hard time submitting to? What do you think keeps you from trusting God in some things?

3. Our faithfulness lived out over the long haul is revealed in the character we display in our attitudes and actions. As followers of Christ, God has given us all we need to live out his character. As you read 2 Peter 1:3-9 what character qualities would you hope to further develop or continue to live out?

4. Look at the four ways God identifies us in relationship as we walk with Him. Which do you identify with most and which as least? What is encouraging to your faith about each?

5. God calls us to submit and then listen for his plans and desires for our lives. Is this a normal habit for you? What areas can you think of where you could develop more of a pattern like this in order to deepen your faith?

6. God called Abraham to begin the practice of circumcision to give people a reminder to live in trust of God rather than trust in the flesh, or themselves. As believers we are called to live by the Spirit not the flesh. Where is that a challenge for you? What is one area or thing where you can envision trusting God that is way beyond your control?



Sunday November 2, 2014
Abraham: Genesis 17:1-27
Deep Faith Takes Time & Effort

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How does time affect Faith?

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” (Genesis 17:1-2, NIV)

God often **SPEAKS** when we are at the **BOTTOM**

When the time is right, God **REVEALS MORE OF HIMSELF**

El Shaddai – God Almighty – **“I AM SUFFICIENT”**

“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV)

Heb. 7:25 & 2:18, Rom. 8:39, Phil. 3:21, Eph. 3:20, Jude 24

What is your need today where you question God’s sufficiency?

What effort will be needed for deep faith?

walk before me faithfully and be blameless (v.1)

Before as his **CHILDREN**

After the Lord – Duet 13:4 as his **SERVANTS**

With God – Enoch & Noah as his **FRIENDS**

In Him – Col 2:6 as his **BODY**

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (Ephesians 1:4, NIV)

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” (Genesis 17:3-8, NIV)

SUBMIT then **LISTEN** to God when acting in faith

24 times, God say “I will” or “I shall”

Accept the Grace of God that accompanies His plan

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her... ¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!” (Genesis 17:15-18, NIV)

Abram – Abraham

Sarai – Sarah

Isaac

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8, NIV)

Plan to rely upon the **SPIRIT** rather than the **FLESH**

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3, NIV)

Where does your confidence need to shift from self to El Shaddai?