

God's Blessings

Bible proclaims the blessings that come to the person who trusts in the Lord. It is the solution to our problems. We need to learn what it means to trust the Lord in all the distressing ups and downs of life.

A. Trust must be in the Lord.

Abraham "believed in the Lord." Biblical faith is always in God who has revealed Himself in His Word. It is not vague; it is specific, based on His Word. The essence of the word used here in the Bible is firmness or certainty. In Genesis 15:6, it means that Abraham relied on the Lord and His word as true and certain. This trust must be both personal and propositional. That is, it must be both in the God and in His Word.

1. Trust personally in the personal God

Abraham trusted in the Lord, the personal, covenant God. In verse 2 (and v. 8), Abraham addresses God as Adonai. This is the first recorded time Abraham speaks to God. Adonai means Lord, Master, or Sovereign. It points to God's absolute right to rule. So even though Abraham is confused and asking God to clear up matters for him, he is asking submissively, You must submit to Him! We can't trust God if we aren't submitting to Him as our Sovereign Lord. When Abraham was left with famine-stricken land of Canaan, the Lord told Abraham that his descendants would be as the dust of the ground. Here, God takes him out into the night and reassures him with the stars. God was personally experience to meet Abram at his point of need. Abram's response was to believe God.

Do you have that kind of personal trust in the personal God who created the universe? When you're fearful or anxious you can go personally to Him and tell Him your problems and know that He cares for you. It is personal trust in the God.

2. Trust personally in the personal God's promises

God has revealed Himself prepositionally, that is, in the words of Scripture. While God spoke verbally to Abraham, He has revealed Himself to us in the inspired words of the Bible. Trust involves not only believing in the Lord, but also in the things He has revealed in His Word.

What Abraham believed on this occasion is the specific word of the Lord concerning a son (seed) which would come forth from his body. Abram knew that through this seed, blessing would come to all the families of the earth (12:3). In Galatians, the word seed is singular, not plural, thus pointing not to all of Abraham's descendants, but to the one descendant of Abraham, Christ (Gal. 3:16). So when Abraham believed in the Lord, what he believed specifically was the promise that a Savior for the world would come forth from his descendants. You may wonder, how much did Abraham know about Jesus Christ, who would be born 2,000 years later? Jesus Himself said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (John 8:56). Paul said that the gospel was preached beforehand to Abraham when God promised, "All the nations shall be blessed in you" (Gal. 3:8). Abraham looked forward in faith to God's Redeemer and thus it is recorded here that God reckoned it to him as righteousness.

It's that kind of personal trust in His promises about the Savior that God wants. The Christian life is not using God to obtain happiness and good feelings in this life; it is trusting God and His promises. Trust must be in God and His Word.

B. Trust obtains God's promised blessings.

Trust is the channel through which God pours out His blessings on His people. There are two types of blessings which Abraham realized, which we also will realize as we trust in the Lord.

1. God gives us himself to calm us in Life's storms

"Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your very great reward." That is, God Himself was Abram's shield and reward. You can gain everything this world offers, but if you don't have God, you don't have anything. but if you've got Christ, you possess all things (2 Cor. 6:10).

It's significant that God revealed Himself to Abraham at times of crisis. When he left his home and set out for the uncertainties of Canaan, God promised to bless him and make him a great nation (12:1-3). Lord appeared to Abraham and promised to give him that land (12:6-7 You never lose anything when you give up something to follow the Lord.

God's method of supplying our need is to give us fresh knowledge of Himself, for every need can be met by seeing Him" If you're facing a crisis in your life, look in God's Word for a fresh insight into who He is.

Abraham didn't know God as his shield until he was afraid of retaliation from his enemies. He didn't know God as his very great reward until he was worried about his financial condition.

Are you lonely? Look to Christ as your Bridegroom, Lover, and Friend! Are you depressed? Come to know the Lord as your joy! Are you fearful and anxious? He is your refuge and peace! Are you confused and need direction? He is your wisdom and guide! One reason He allows trials into our lives is so that as we trust Him, we will come to know more of His sufficiency for our every need. He graciously reveals more of Himself to us as we trust Him in our trials.

2. God gives us his righteousness to qualify us for Heaven

When Abraham believed God, God credited it to him as righteousness. Abraham was justified or made right before God. This is one of the most important doctrines in the Bible, that God declares righteous the guilty sinner who trusts in Christ. It is the very core of the gospel.

As Paul spells out in Romans 3 & 4, this verse means that God declares righteous the guilty sinner when that sinner does not trust in his own good works, but rather when he trusts the perfect obedience and the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ on his behalf. "Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness" (Rom. 4:4-5).

God is pleased to give blessing apart from any human merit when a guilty sinner believes in Christ.

Perhaps you're fearful or worried about some problem you're facing. God is not just Abraham's shield and great reward; He will be that to you also. You may not know where you're going, but God knows. Trusting in Him is the means of bringing His promised blessings down into your daily problems. It is the most practical thing you can do, because it links you with the all-sufficient Sovereign Lord.

God's Word contains literally thousands of Bible promises waiting to be claimed in faith. Below we've listed just a few. It's our prayer that your faith and trust in our Heavenly Father will be increased as you seek Him to supply your every need.

Addictions

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

- Psalms 50:15

Deliverance from demonic harassment

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

- Psalms 34:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- James 4:7

Depression

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.- Psalms 9:9-10

The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

- Psalms 34:17

Family

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. - Exodus 20:12

Fear

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.- Exodus 14:14

Filling of Holy Spirit

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.- Proverbs 1:23

Finances / Jobs

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.- Deuteronomy 28:12

Forgiveness

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.- 2 Chronicles 7:14

Guidance

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.- Genesis 28:15

Health

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.-

Exodus 15:26

Marriage / Companionship

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.- Genesis 2:18

Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

- Psalms 37:4

Salvation / God's Love

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.- Isaiah 44:22

And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.- Jeremiah 15:21

Strength to do God's will

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.- Joshua 1:9