



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

WINNING THE BATTLE OF BELIEF (PART 2)

GENESIS 15:6

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

The issue: Abram is basing his conclusions about his heir and his future on what he sees and not on what God has said.

When confronted with the issues of life that stretch and challenge your faith, who will be your focus: God or you?

Genesis 15 presents us with common challenges to taking God at His Word, and it grounds the single solution in the character of God.

The passage presents us with four truths which guide our hearts to trust and obey the Lord instead of giving in to fears, doubts, worries, and anxieties.

I. Object of Our Belief (Genesis 15:1)

In Whom and in what are we to believe?

The text answers in verses 1 and 4: “...*the word of the Lord came to Abram...*”

Will Abram take and trust God at His word, which will mean:

- waiting on the Lord—patient trust; not worry, anxiety, or control
- walking with the Lord—persevering faithfulness; not fainthearted

II. Enemies of Belief (Genesis 15:2-5)

We summarized the work of the world, the flesh, and the devil against Abram's faith in God and His promises in three aspects of attack:

1. Darkness: fear of the unknown, unchanging circumstances
2. Doubt: fear of the known; I know the truth, but I don't see it working in my life the way I expect so I doubt its application to me.
3. Deception: fear, worry, and anxiety make you more vulnerable to self-deception and Satanic deception.

II. Enemies of Belief (Genesis 15:2-5)

What the narrative bears out next is the single solution to Abram's struggle with trusting God's promise and plan.

It is the fear of the Lord based in what Abram knows of the character of the Lord.

II. Enemies of Belief (Genesis 15:2-5)

You cannot put your faith and hope in what the world most commonly trusts in:

- change in your circumstances
- experience (yours or other's; experience doesn't top or beat God's truth)
- man's wisdom (coping, doping, moping, or hoping a way out/around)

II. Enemies of Belief (Genesis 15:2-5)

Genesis 15:6-21 describes the path for winning the battle to trust that:

- God is good.
- God does good...
- ...to me...
- ALWAYS!

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

What is the source of Abram's obedience, and what is the solution to Abram's doubts?

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

Abram is responding to God's character of faithfulness. The clause, "*Then he believed in the Lord...*" helps us to see this.

Believed conveys the ideas of reliability, steadfastness, stability, and dependability.

Believed = to place confident trust in someone, or to consider something dependable/reliable and then to act on that trust. Abram is declaring his trust in God and entrusting his future to God.

He's choosing to settle his soul in the peace of trusting God to be faithful to Him. Abram is grounding his soul in God's character of goodness and grace. And he's patiently waiting for God to act to keep His promises.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

“...and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”

Reckoned = counted or credited; to assign value.

The Lord assigned Abram's faith the value of righteousness.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

What is the blessing here?

Righteousness = conformity to God's standard, to what is right in God's eyes.

God is assigning righteous value to Abram's faith because Abram's right response reveals God's work of making Abram's heart right with God.

God counted Abram's faith as right because it came from a heart that God made right.

The right standing being "*reckoned*," imputed, or credited to Abram's life is obviously, by definition, a righteousness outside himself. It did not originally belong to or come from within Abram. It was bestowed on him.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

Where did this righteousness come from?

Galations 3:6-9

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

Abram needed to wait on the Lord.

Lack of biblical truth at work *in* your life, for whatever reason, means that you will lack an understanding of how to apply God's truth *to* your life.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

This is how you actively wait on the Lord:

W Watch for God's goodness.

Ten years of Abram being blessed should have taught him to recognize and reflect.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

This is how you actively wait on the Lord:

W Watch for God's goodness.

A Adorn God's truth.

This is from Titus 2:10 and means to labor together with your wife and family to make God's truth attractive through wise, submissive, holy living. This involves applying God's truth to life.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

This is how you actively wait on the Lord:

W Watch for God's goodness.

A Adorn God's truth.

I Invest in God's people.

Set your heart to serve your wife, serve others, and serve God's people as an expression of who you are in Christ. Pour yourself and your resources into what God values.

III. Blessings of Belief (Genesis 15:6)

This is how you actively wait on the Lord:

W Watch for God's goodness.

A Adorn God's truth.

I Invest in God's people.

T Thank God for His blessings.

Colossians 3:15-17—Notice that in each verse Paul emphasizes our being thankful to God.

A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it.

GRACE CHURCH

WILLIAMSBURG