



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

WINNING THE BATTLE OF BELIEF

GENESIS 15:1-5



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“...you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord...”
(Eph. 5:8)

We were formerly living in the darkness of death,

but now

we are living as Light in the Lord.

Because we are in the Lord, darkness, death, and deception are all overcome, as His light shines in our hearts giving us His life,

“...walk as children of Light...trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”

Winning the battle of belief begins with God's gift of saving faith so that no person can boast about that faith; it is the gift of God.

And winning the battle of belief against the enemies of faith continues by God's grace working in us so that we trust and obey the Lord as His children of Light.

Genesis 15 presents us with common challenges and 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.

The first of these essential elements in winning the battle of belief concerns the:

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

In Whom and in what are we to believe?

“...the Word of the Lord...” Scripture is what makes our faith in God possible because it instructs our hearts in what to believe. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).

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

This is most likely a Christophany—an early manifestation of Jesus.

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

“He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.... Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.’ So the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.’” (John 8:47, 56-58)

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

What temptations, common to man, worked against Abram's faith as he struggled to trust in God and His Word?

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

- Darkness = lack of knowing details and outcomes ➡ fosters fear and anxiety.

This refers to a darkness/uncertainty which stems from fear of the unknown—not knowing all that God knows about our lives.

God's answer is based in this: *“the word of the Lord came to him, saying...”*
That's his baseline, and ours, as we face life.

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

- Darkness

When we dwell on the silence of God, on what he *hasn't* made known to us, on what we *don't* have, or on what is *not* happening, several issues of belief arise in us.

- We become increasingly impatient.
- We become vulnerable to fear, worry, and discontentment.
- We become convinced that the lack of change in our circumstances is a deficiency in the way God is dealing with us.
- We become doubtful about God's goodness to us.

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

- **Darkness**
- **Doubt** = lack of trust in God

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

- **Darkness**
- **Doubt**
- **Deception** – Anytime we are doubting God's goodness, leaning on our own understanding, and/or not willing to wait on the Lord, we are opening ourselves to being deceived by Satan and by our own hearts.

We need to nourish our souls on the spiritual food our souls need most:

- the spiritual food of God's truth to inform us, ground us, and then to guide us in trusting and obeying the Lord...
- because God our Father is good and does good to us, ALWAYS!

And now we're back where we've been before, the familiar ground of responding to the Lord by focusing on what will most honor and please Jesus in the way of our attitudes and actions.

*“Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you;
your reward shall be very great.”*

Genesis 15:1



“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our abode with him.... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

John 14:23, 25-27



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.

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