

WEEKLY REFLECTION

As Christians, we readily confess that we trust God, yet we still wrestle with the “what abouts” of life—our health, our jobs, and our futures. There is often a gap between our faith in God’s promises and the anxiety we feel when facing difficult circumstances.

In Genesis 15, we see that Abram, the father of our faith, also lived in this gap. Despite his genuine belief, he held real fears about his safety and his lack of a biological heir. When Abram asked God for proof of His promises, God didn't rebuke him for his doubts. Instead, He pointed Abram to remember His power. God met Abram gently in his uncertainty.

To give Abram assurance, God initiated a covenant. In the ancient world, two parties making a treaty would walk between severed animals, signifying that whoever broke the vow would share the animals' fate. But God put Abram to sleep and passed through the pieces alone. God took full responsibility for the covenant, declaring that even when Abram, and us, inevitably fail, God would still fulfill the covenant Himself.

This ancient covenant points directly to Jesus. Christ stepped into the gap for us on the cross, taking the penalty for our sin. Abram simply "believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." We are saved by faith in Christ also.

Our salvation doesn't depend on having perfect, unwavering confidence. Just like crossing a glass bridge, whether you walk across with bold strides or trembling knees, it is the strength of the bridge, not the amount of your faith, that keeps you from falling. When the "what ifs" and “what abouts” overwhelm you, look up to the cross, and rest in the strength of the One you put your faith in.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

What's a story of a 'leap of faith' you took (like a trust fall, a wild amusement park ride, cliff jumping, or walking on top a glass walkway). What finally got you to do it? Are you the type to jump ahead confidently, or hesitate with fear?

QUESTION TWO:

The sermon highlighted the phrase, "I trust God, but..." What is the biggest "what about" in your life right now? How do you maintain hope even if God's plan for you involves 400 years of hardship?

QUESTION THREE:

There is a difference between asking questions in unbelief and asking questions in faith. What questions do you have? How can we honestly bring our doubts to God while still holding on in faith?

QUESTION FOUR:

As with walking on a glass bridge, it's not the strength of our faith, that saves us but the strength of the object of our faith. How does this truth relieve the pressure you might feel to be a "perfect" Christian? What is one step of faith you feel called to take this week, even if your knees are shaking?

God told Abram to look at the stars as a reminder of His power. What are some reminders of God's goodness that you can look to when your faith feels weak?