

START HERE #19: GENESIS 15:1-6 "THE FRIENDS OF GOD LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD"

Sometimes the greatest victories come when defeat seems inevitable.

- SUPERBOWL 51: 21 to 3 half time /28-9 3rd – 34-8 **WHO CAN BELIEVE?**
- It's hard to believe when all the evidence seems to be stacked against/ THATSIT

In the center of Abraham's own struggle he makes a choice.

God births a resolve in Abraham's life in the agony of indecision. It's in the crucible of seeming defeat that Abraham experienced his greatest victory

MP: The most impactful spiritual moments come when circumstances are the bleakest because they birth belief in God.

ABRAHAM'S SELF-IMPOSED BOX OF UNBELIEF

It's ok to sincerely struggle – it's human **Peter, Paul, David, Sarah**

Belief doesn't mean the absence of doubt. It means that while you are struggling with doubt you make the choice to believe.

- This is not accusatory doubt. Not intentional resistance against all God had revealed – **I believe help my unbelief - UNBELIEF IS A CHOICE**

TENT: All is see is what is before me – ELIEZER (culturally approved option)

- These are my only options – how hard when discouraged stubborn -**toxic**

GOD BLEW HIS BOX UNBELIEF REVELATION REMINDER RENEWAL – GOD'S LOVE REVELATION OF HIS CHARACTER: POWER OF GOD'S WORD – SPEAKS INTO

I AM YOUR SHIELD – protector, defender, your champion – **wGOD SAYS I'VE GOT U**

I AM YOUR EG REWARD – It's not the miracle but the miracle Maker, it's not the reward it's the Rewarder, it's not the promise it's the Promiser. God is saying to Abraham, "I am your reward."

- Exceedingly Great Reward – incomparable – better than any other promise

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

You may get spiritual gifts, eternal life, provision, guidance, WHAT IS THAT COMPARED TO HIM?

REMINDER OF HIS PROMISE

- REMEMBER WHAT I SAID
- **These might be your only options but not mine. Don't limit ME**

RENEWAL OF ABRAHAM'S PERSPECTIVE:

The biggest obstacle to Abraham's belief was His self-imposed short sighted perspective.

- Pulls him out of the box - **GOD TOOK HIM OUT** – by the hand

Not grains of sand (down) not grains of wheat (around) stars in heaven (up)

When Abraham looked with His eyes he saw Eliezer. When He looked through His eyes He saw God.

- Don't just see stars – **SEE WHAT I AM GOING TO DO** - Seeing with eyes of faith

ABRAHAM MOVES FROM DOUBT TO DISCOVERY AND VICTORY

Abraham's journey becomes a pattern for everyone who would be a friend of God.

BELIEVES BIRTHED/CHOUSES: belief not an inherited disposition, not a function of circumstances, not a matter of personality type, house u grow **(OUR KIDS) - choice**

- TRANSACTION: accounted righteous – **TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Righteousness: conformed to an ethical moral or standard – **RIGHTOUS B4 GOD**

- **FAITH AS THE PROCESS – PAUL – FAITH NOT OUR WORKS**

Romans 4:3 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has *something* to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" ⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness

- **THE GOSPEL AS THE POINT – FAITH IN THE ONE**

Galatians 3:6 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ⁶ just as Abraham "*believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" ⁷ Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel to Abraham** beforehand, *saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."* ⁹

WHAT GOD CAN DO WHEN YOU CHOOSE BELIEF OVER DOUBT