

**Introduction:**

- Working miracles by faith. *"Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham."* (Galatians 3:5-7, ESV)
- We saw from Mark 4:20, it is those who 'hear, receive and believe' that bare fruit.

**I. Promises In The Word**

- A. The Holy Spirit works miracles with us just as He did with Abraham.
  1. Abraham simply believed.
  2. The Word of God produced faith in Abraham. Much of our faith is based on how big we see God.
- B. Abraham held fast to the Word when his faith was tested.
  1. He refused to throw away His confidence even when God was telling him to offer up Isaac.
  2. He refused to consider his own body or Sarah's above the Word of God. *"He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb."* (Romans 4:19, ESV)
  3. In the natural this was impossible; he was old and so was Sarah. But the impossible cannot nullify the Word of God unless we let it. Abraham was strengthened in faith: *"No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised."* (Romans 4:20-21, ESV)
  4. Note to self: As Abraham considered/looked at the promise God had made, he became strong in faith. IE. Same requirement was given to Israel when the serpents were biting them.
    - a) Anyone who looks at the bronze serpent will live.
    - b) We must be people who look to the Word above our symptoms!
- C. Faith cannot be based on our improvement, or affected by more or less symptoms, or how we feel.
  1. To consider improvement, symptoms, feelings etc; is the opposite of what God wants us to do.
  2. We must occupy ourselves with the Word! With the Promise from God!
  3. The Word must be the basis of our faith. The word must be the foundation of our faith.
  4. *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17, ESV)
  5. Abraham experienced his miracle because he rested in God's promise. Jonah 2:8

speaks of those who trust in idols as forsaking God's mercy. Idols can't be trusted.

## II. Pulling the Prop Out

- A. Abraham trusted the Promise of God, and a son was given to him and Sarah.
  1. The thing that Abraham believed God for, for years, had finally come.
  2. Now he has the answer to his faith, Isaac. He can touch him, hold him, speak to him, and love him!
- B. God now tests His faith, "Offer up your son as a sacrifice." God was pulling the prop out from him.
  1. This did not sway Abraham at all. He was only moved by what God said!
  2. Real faith thrives under a test! The test is not designed to destroy but to perfect faith!
  3. God tells us in Hebrews 10: 35, 36 "*not to throw away our confidence which has great reward, for we have need of great patience.*" We have to hang on until the end.
  4. Ie. Have you ever heard someone say, "I thought for sure I was going to be healed when they prayed for me." Your miracle went right by you. You wanted to get better before you got healed.
  5. Remember Abraham as he waited kept his eyes on the word and his faith 'hitched up' there.
    - a) Noah kept building the Ark for 120 years.
    - b) Joshua and Israel marched around Jericho seven days before the wall came down.
    - c) Both were looking to the Word/to the promises of God.
- C. Jesus taught the same in the NT; "*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*" (Mark 11:24, ESV)
  1. Believe you have received
  2. Then it will be yours.
  3. We know He hears us when we pray. Therefore, know that the answer is on the way.
  4. He is a good father that loves to provide for His children! Ie. Don't settle for improvements keep your faith alive until fully healed.

## III. Look and Live!

- A. "*And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."*" (Numbers 21:8, ESV)
- B. Israel made three big mistakes:
  1. They became impatient
  2. They spoke against God and Moses.

3. They hated/complained against the very food God provided.
  4. Needless to say, bad things began to happen. Proverbs 18:21 ESV "Death and life are in the power of the tongue,..."
  5. They confessed their sin and asked Moses to intercede.
- C. *"And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." (Numbers 21:8, ESV)*
1. Many died of snake bites.
  2. Those bitten, if they looked to the bronze serpent on a pole they would live.
- D. Another picture of looking to the Word! Faith comes by hearing the message and the message through the Word/promises.

**Conclusion:**

- From last week:
  - Satan comes immediately to steal the Word.
  - No depth in the Word you will wither.
  - If you don't care for the Word, weeds will choke it out
- But if you continue to look to the Word it will bear fruit.

*"And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you." (Mark 4:24, ESV)*

*"And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear." (Mark 4:24, AMP)*