

Graduating! Getting Ready!



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The *Christian* life is one of getting ready for *eternal* life—it is reading and learning from the Word how to *trust* God and how to *meet* situations in a scriptural way. The Bible tells us how to put our *faith* in God into practice. Just like us, Abraham was “*Brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me,*” Psalm 51:5.

Abram began life with a rebellious nature controlled by self that we *all* begin life with; and he had to fight the same devil we do. Today, we have God’s written Truth in Scripture, but Abram had no Bible—that was a big disadvantage—because having a Bible for reference is a big *advantage*.

Scripture explains how we can have contentment, protection, peace, healing, and a supply of whatever is needed each day while living here on earth. The Bible tells us how to be *ready* for Eternal Life when Jesus returns. There is *nothing* more important than knowing *how* we enter God’s Kingdom. Problems and troubles on earth *have* an end, but in eternity there is *no* end!

If the average church today is *right*, then the Bible example of Abraham’s life is *wrong*—but we know that Abraham’s example of faith and trust on God is *absolutely right*, and that God’s plan for *his* life is God’s plan for *everyone’s* life.

It is important to know this because of so much spiritual darkness, error, and deceit today. Matthew 6:23 “*If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*”

Abraham *began* right and moved forward in *faith* right—due to his willingness to *heed* God’s instructions. He always said *Yes* to God. Hebrews 3:7 “*As the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, & Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness.’*” Abram *knew* God gave him life so He had a *right* to tell him how to *live* it Romans 12:1-2.

There are millions of opinions on *how to be saved*, but only the *Bible* gives the Truth, and only *Scripture* explains the *conditions* to be *met* for Heaven to be *ours*. Most ministers agree that Bible examples actually happened—but they say these things do not happen today. The *truth* is that *same power* that worked in the lives of believers *then*, is the same power that works in the lives of believers *now*. Malachi 3:6 “*I am the LORD, I change not.*”

The *conditions* that had to be met *then* are the conditions that have to be met *now*—if the same *results* are expected. In mathematics—if you apply the theory and work out the example according to the rule, you obtain the correct answer. Radius square X pi = surface area of a circle.

If anyone applies the Bible principle of trust *on* God, they are promised the same results *from* God. The devil cannot argue with an example, because it actually *happened*—he can only say it will not happen today.

Abraham’s life sheds real light on the Christian’s path—and it makes the destination a sure thing! *Divine healing* and *financial trust* played a major role in Abraham’s life, although very few denominational churches and professed believers accept either one.

The facts are that if Abraham did *not* trust God for divine healing, and if he did *not* depend

on God for finances, he would *not* have realized spiritual growth; he would *not* have been ready for graduating; and he would *not* have entered Heaven!

If we cannot trust God in faith for physical *healing*; and if we cannot trust Him in faith for *finances*, we would not be able to trust Him for anything *else* either. Those two divine principles of trust have all to do with our *getting ready* for graduation and for eternal life, because they are all about real faith in God.

Another important aspect of Abraham’s example is the way he treated others, and how he conducted his financial transactions. Abraham met things scripturally, and met them in a Christ-like way hundreds of years before the New Testament was written. He allowed *God* to control every decision he made.

Everyone today has the same responsibility to choose, and God only asks that we choose to trust Him as Abraham trusted Him. God provides the spiritual *light* and *ability*—we are responsible for just one thing—to make the right *choice* by following Bible *examples*.

The Bible records the *wonderful* results that came from making the *right* choice; and also reveals the *horrible* results from making the *wrong* choice. Abraham received blessings from the *Lord*, instead of afflictions of the *devil*, because he made *right choices*.

We are responsible for how we *choose* in divine matters—whatever the results are, it was the way we chose. *Wrong* choices lead to the lake of fire; and *scriptural* choices lead to God’s eternal kingdom. The power to choose is squarely in our own hands—neither *God* nor *man* can change that.

Satan does everything he can to convince the average person that people in the Bible—like Abraham, Elijah, Daniel, and the apostle Paul—had something *special* about them; something we

could *not* have. *That* is a serious *deception* and *lie*, because *anyone* can have the *same results* if they place the *same faith* in God—as He is *no respecter* of persons.

The prophet James 5:17 “*Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*” If we pray in the same *faith*, we can have the same *results*, because God will answer any prayer of faith. It is not the kind of *person* we are, but the kind of *God* we have.

Abraham’s example includes divine healing and financial supplies, because both are principles of trust on God, and they were the cornerstone of Jesus’ ministry, even though most proclaimed Christians today reject them. Jesus said, “*Your faith has healed you*” Matthew 9:22 in many verses, and Matthew 6:19 “*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.*”

God promised to give Abraham a *land*; a prominent *name*; be a great *nation*, and a *blessing* to everyone on earth Genesis 12:1-2. It took real *faith* to believe that it would happen, because at that time, Abraham had no child and his wife was well along in years. Today, however, God has already fulfilled many promises—the nation of Israel; Abraham’s name is revered by Jews, Moslems, and Christians; and the world is blessed with a Jewish Savior.

Those building the Tower of Babel wanted to make a *name* for themselves, but doing so in their *own strength* and by their *own pride*—so it failed. Genesis 11:4 “*And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*” Abraham trusted God in *faith*, and was given a famous name as *promised*.

Jesus taught that if we are not scriptural financially, then we would be in an unscriptural position spiritually—we would *not* have God’s true righteousness. Luke 16:11 “*If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [worldly wealth], who will commit to your trust the true riches*” [or knowledge of God’s Truth]?

God trained Abraham on a life of faith and of total dependence on Him for everything; which God will do for anyone who is willing to *believe* and *act* in faith on the atoning Blood of Christ. There is a *beginning* and a *progressing* to this dependence on God. There is the *death* of the self-life and the *birth* of a new-life. We need to be *submissive* to God’s will, and be ready to correct anything outside of His will.

Abraham accepted God’s financial plan—making a *right* start on the path of faithful trust. Abraham and his nephew lived in Canaan, and their herdsmen—being controlled by the devil as most people are—began arguing over land rights. Abraham hears about it and knows that God would supply whatever was needed, so he responds in a scriptural and Christlike way.

God would approve of the way Abraham handled this situation. Genesis 13:8 “*Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.*” In taking that scriptural attitude, Abraham was fulfilling Scripture that would later be written. Hebrews 12:14 “*Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord.*”

It is naturally *difficult* to give the *best*, the *most*, and *good measure*, to others, but Abraham did because he kept his eyes on God. Abraham did not want his herdsmen to act in a way that would dishonor God, so he persistently strove for peace and settled the matter agreeably. He said Genesis 13:9 “*Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want*

that area over there, then I’ll stay here. If you want to stay in this area, then I’ll move on to another place.”

He gave Lot *first* choice and the opportunity to take the *best* and the *most* if he wanted to. Lot took him at his word, and chose the most favorable land for cattle, which would provide a profitable market. Abraham took what was left—a land that was *not* so fertile, and *not* close to any market; but he knew that God would *make up for* any loss if he did the scriptural thing.

Making the choice in *God’s* favor, always pays in the end; Genesis 13:14 “*And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*”

We often have the opportunity to do likewise—and may God, by His mercy and grace, enable us to give the *most*, the *best*, and *extra-measure* to others—while we take the *least*, the *worst*, and what is *left*. Abraham had a right to choose the *best*, but he let someone else go *first*. Giving Lot the best was the death of self for Abraham—that hidden enemy of his *soul* was gone from his *life*.

The paramount issue in *all* of this and a result that *far* out-weighs all the *land*, *money*, and *possessions* the world could possibly offer, is what Jesus said about *faith*, *trust*, and *believing* His Word. He said faith like the centurion’s would enable anyone to Matthew 8:11 “*Sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*” And Abraham is already in Heaven!



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