

The
FAITH
of a
CHAMPION
for Teen

FRANCESCO BASILE

THE FAITH OF A CHAMPION

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First Edition November 2006

Corpat® (div. Grafica e Stampa®)

Via Orto Madonna, 12 – Campagnano (RM)

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New American Standard Version

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Background

THE FAITH OF A CHAMPION

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said:

“I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless. I will establish my covenant between me and you and will multiply you exceedingly.”

Then, Abram fell on his face and God talked with him, saying:

“As for me, behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you a father of a multitude of nations. And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.”

GENESIS 17:1-6

In this wonderful passage from Genesis, we see how God met with Abraham and gave him an awesome promise,

“I’ll make you the father of a multitude of nations.”

This is a promise, which is more than exciting; God Himself gets close to a man and commands him to be blameless and walk with Him, because He has a purpose for his life.

God promises something, which nobody would ever have dared to ask. Because the Lord was pleased with Abraham, he chose to bestow on him His blessing, which nowadays we also enjoy.

In fact:

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us, in order that the blessings of Abraham might come to us in Christ Jesus.”

GALATIANS 3:13

This goes even beyond what Abraham himself would ever have asked for: **“Father of a multitude of nations.”**

Let us pay special attention to some details of Abraham’s life. It is very peculiar that, when God pronounced these words of blessings, Abraham was about a hundred years old.

Isn’t it quite strange? God could have chosen a young man, who would have probably been more fit to generate offspring and extend God’s plan and

purpose. Instead, He chooses a ninety-nine year old man with a barren wife.

Let us analyze a passage, which will help us understand how Abraham could possibly fulfil this promise.

As we have already read, from a rational point of view, he was probably the least fit person for this purpose.

‘As it is written, I have made you a father of many nation. – He was appointed our father - in the sight of God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already]existed.

[For Abraham, human reason for] hope being gone, hoped on in faith that he should become a father of many nations, as he had been promised, So [numberless] shall your descendants be.

He did not weaken in faith when he considered the [utter] impotence of his own body, which was as good as a dead because he was about a hundred years old, or [when he considered] the barrenness of Sarah’s (deadened) womb.

No unbelief or distrust made him waver or doubtfully question concerning the promise of

God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised.

That is why his faith was credited to him as righteousness-right standing with God.'

ROMANS 4:17-22

[The Amplified Bible, © 1965 by Zondervan
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Through faith, Abraham achieved God's purpose for his life.

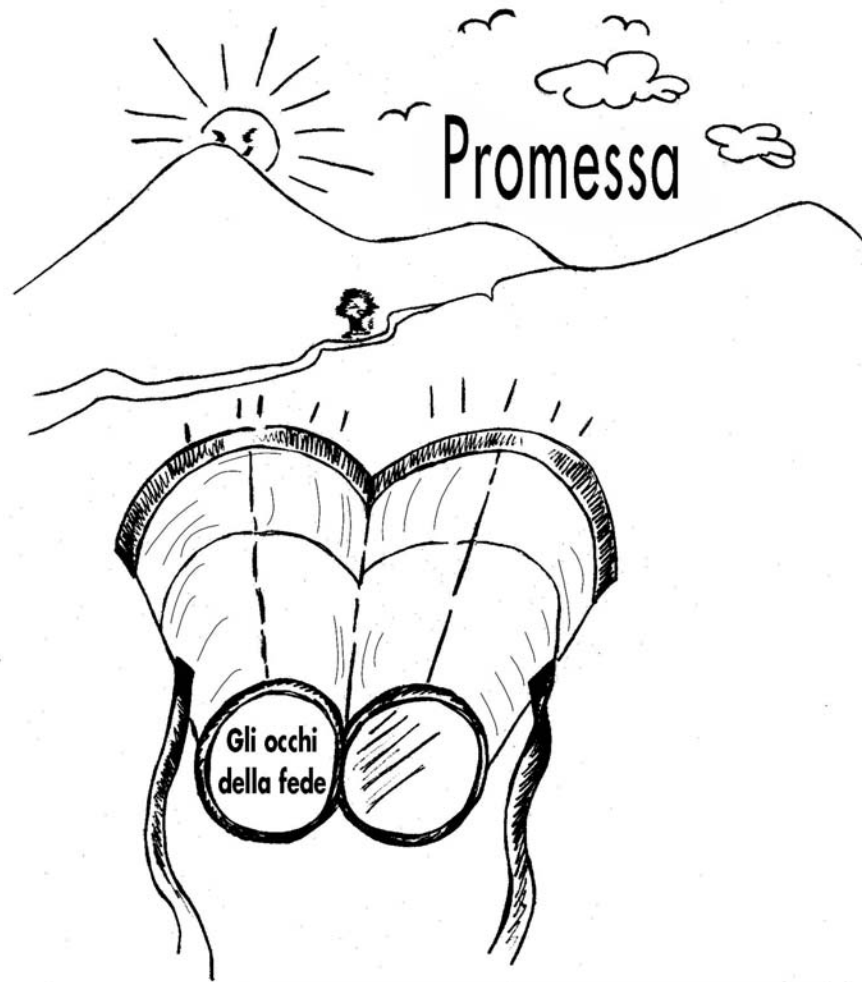
If that same kind of faith could be found in us, it would produce the miracle of God.

Only through faith can we obtain that which is ours in Christ.

Abraham has also been called the Father of Faith, and from his example, through the Scriptures, we want to learn step by step the manifold aspects of the

FAITH OF A CHAMPION.

Faith Sees



La fede vede

Chapter 1

FAITH SEES

Let us examine together the situation Abraham had to deal with.

We saw he was advanced in age: a hundred years old and his wife was barren, so under no human circumstances could they conceive a child. Furthermore, in fact, they had nothing “but” – speaking as an unbeliever – a word uttered from God’s mouth. In their physical life everything remained unchanged.

They had no proof for their relatives and friends to share their experience: no difference was visible, they didn’t regain their youth, neither was there any evidence that God had really spoken to them.

Yet, faith sees beyond what our eyes can see or our senses can perceive. Faith focuses attentively on the Word of God and on his promises.

Their circumstances were of no encouragement, neither were they different from the previous one hundred past years. By their abilities were not capable of achieving this purpose and more than likely, their friends and relatives did not take them seriously when Abraham and Sarah said.....

“You know, God spoke to us: we will soon have a child of our own. Yes, it is true that the two of us together are almost two hundreds years old, but we have faith!”

In our imagination we can hear their laughter. Nevertheless, true faith, the **Faith of A Champion**, sees beyond what we can see with our physical eyes. Faith sees the supernatural things of God!

It is the same for us today: if all we can see are our circumstances and happenings, our faith will be like Thomas's,

“Unless I see, I will not believe.” (see the Gospel of John 20:25-29)

and we know very well that Jesus was not pleased with this kind of “faith”, which instead he called unbelief!

The Faith of a “Champion” sees with the eyes of God. It receives the Word of God as the only possible truth, focuses on it and challenges every situation and circumstance that comes to oppose the Absolute Truth.

Jesus said:

“Your word is the truth.”

JOHN 17:17

We can even see how God gave Abraham a vision of His promise.

The Lord made things such that the eyes of Abraham could see his circumstances, and the promise along with them.....

And the Lord said to Abraham:

“Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.

And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, than your descendants can also be numbered.”

GENESIS 13:14-16

It is important to note, in this passage, how the Lord encouraged Abraham

“Lift up your eyes”, which is like saying “widen your horizon, look around, stop seeing little, because

“All the land which you see I will give to you.”

God was actually saying “All that you see is mine: if you can picture it out, I can give it to you!”

How far can your eyes reach out to?????

Isn't He, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, the one who sustains all things in the palm of His hand?

Many of us, as Abraham initially did, have limited God to within our own small sight.

Nevertheless, in this passage we see how the Lord encourages and almost challenges Abraham to greater dreams and greater visions. He said to him:

“All the land which you see I will give to you.”

WOW! It is all available for us today as well! Until we can see beyond the “tip of our noses”, will never be able to receive what the Lord has in store for us.

God, in fact, gave his servant a very practical example about the promised offspring

“I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth.” (can that be counted?)

The dust of the earth.

I believe this is a very clear example.

Surely, it had not to be easy at all for Abraham to avoid, even for one single day, to face the evidence of that promise. Further we can see

“And he took him outside and said, Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them”

GENESIS 15:5

As though the dust of the earth had not been enough, God appeared to Abraham once more saying:

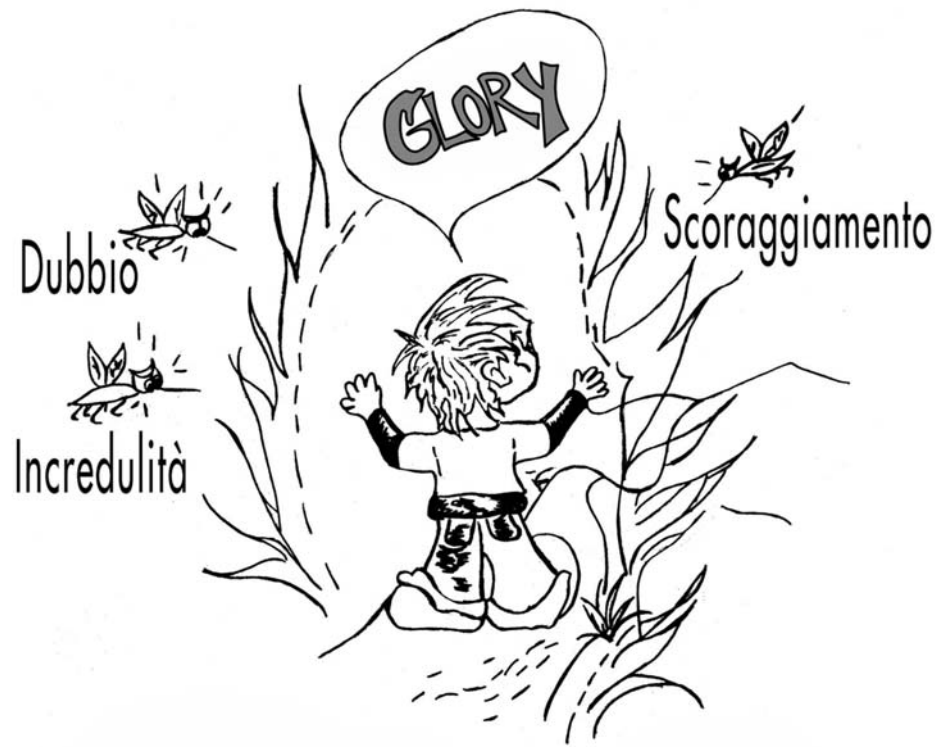
“Look at the stars in heaven” like saying:

“Are they enough for you? Can you number them?”

Every day, whenever Abraham opened his eyes, there he found the promise!

The limits of the sky, the end the end of the earth were the evidence of the promise of God.

His eyes had to keep it always in mind, and I do believe this is the reason why the Lord met with Abraham not just once, but two times, and gave him a clear picture of what had been purposed for him.



La fede parla

Faith speaks

Chapter 2

FAITH SPEAKS

“No unbelief or distrust made him waver or doubtfully question concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God.”

ROMANS 4:20 (Amplified)

“I am what the Bible says I am”

Too often we identify ourselves with totally different things.

For years we have been given a definition of who and what we are and unfortunately many of us believed a lot of lies.

Since the time we attended school, our classmates classified us as either nice or ugly; our teachers good or bad and our parents were always trying to picture us in their likeness ...

“You are the same of your father” and

“Oh no, he is just like his uncle!”

The uncle may have found himself in a totally confused period of life, and we also felt the same way.

Yet, this is not what you and I are.

We are what the Word of God says we are, and this is the one and only thing we have got to confess of our lives.

Maybe Abraham had many people around him saying who and what he was: old, married to a barren wife, eventually crazy!

Yet, the Scripture says that he didn't waver in his faith, no unbelief or discouragement got hold of him. Why? Because he **“was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God.”**

Let us notice that he **“was empowered”** is strictly connected with **“giving glory to God.”**

Now, how can we glorify God other than with our SPEAKING GLORY TO GOD?!!!

Abraham began to proclaim the promises of God for his life, giving Him thanks for those promises, quoting them often, daily. I can imagine him looking at a valley full of flowers and saying:

“GLORY BE TO GOD, I AM THE FATHER OF A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS, THE STARS OF THE SKY ARE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, THE DUST OF THE EARTH IS MY OFFSPRING;

GLORY BE TO GOD, I SEE IT , I BELIEVE IT, I RECEIVE IT.”

“WOW”, this is a real confession of faith.

Perhaps I have put into it in my own way somewhat, yet in my opinion, giving glory to God means to say nothing less and nothing more than what God says.

Abraham didn't allow any doubt into his heart. How did he do it?

The Bible says that “**with the heart man believes**”, resulting in “**righteousness**”, and “**with the mouth he confesses**”, resulting in “**salvation.**” (ROMANS 10:10).

And:

“The mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”

MATTHEW 12:34b

Whatever Abraham confessed with his mouth, gave glory to God, no room was left for unbelief in his heart .

No doubt penetrated his mind, because it was full of God's thoughts, of His Word and of His vision of the situation.

When we start to think the thoughts of God, to see what He sees, and to speak as He speaks, there will be no more room in our minds for invasive doubts.

Our Emotions are another area where we oftentimes fail in faith. If allowed they can drive us wherever they desire.

I don't think that Abraham's life was free from emotion, yet I believe that he learned something very important in this area.

Every morning, upon waking up, we can find ourselves in a different emotional mood.

During the day, a certain word or discussion can touch or change our emotions. At times, a simple gesture or the action of a loved-one can make us feel either good or bad.

I am not trying to deny the importance of such a sensitive

part of our life; rather as God created it within us, it is supposed to be an indispensable part of us and not to be denied.

We have, therefore, got to know what the truth is.

At times we are moved by our emotions instead of what we really are and believe. What our emotions try to communicate to us is often in disagreement with the Word of God and therefore with true faith as well.

FAITH DOESN'T STAND ITS GROUND ON WHAT WE FEEL, IT STANDS FIRMLY ON THE WORD OF GOD.

Within one minute, emotions can take us from one side of the earth to the other. If we act on this basis, we will never enjoy the great blessings God has prepared for us, His children.

These can be realized only through faith in God and in His Word.

We must always consider who we are in God, the identity we have in Him and primarily what the Lord says of us.

To make this clear, let me tell you a story

“Once upon a time there was a small eagle. He lost his way home and had to live with a flock of vultures that took him in because he was young.

Day by day the small eagle grew up and learned, very quickly, all the hunting strategies his friends taught him.

There was actually no special strategy for that kind of hunting; it was all about finding pieces of meat to eat that had been left over by other animals.

Since the small eagle had to live with the vultures for so many years, he learned to behave and feel like them, to the extent to believe he was one of them.

One day, by chance, he saw a regal eagle flying higher than him and exclaimed: “WOW! How nice it would be to do the same thing.”

Afterwards, he saw the eagle hunting a prey, which was not spoiled at all as he left pieces of the corpses and the young eagle said: “WOW, who is he and what is so special about him?”

Then, out of curiosity, he flew quickly towards a friend and asked him: “My friend, do you know why that one flies so much higher and can catch live animals and always eats the best?”

His wise friend answered him: “No, I really have no idea; he must know something we don’t.”

Perhaps you too know how that the small eagle felt, a vulture all his life, not knowing any different than eating “second quality” food and always flying very low.

Oh, how many people I know, who ignoring their identity in Christ, and in spite of their call to reign in life as the children of the Living God, are still living as though nothing has really changed. They

receive God's adoption, yet live relying on their feelings and cannot realize the new and precious identity received in Christ.

The Word of God says:

“Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

II CORINTHIANS 5:17

As children of God, we have to always keep in mind that we are no more moved either by what we see or by what we hear.

We are and must be moved **ONLY** by the Word of God.

We are new creations,
Created in the image of God,
Filled with the Spirit of God,
Living according to His Word.

When we allow this truth to sink deep down into our hearts, everything around us will change its form and dimension.

When I wake up in the morning, I don't leave any room for my senses to say how I feel. I am the one who decides how to feel.

How do I do it? By confessing in my life what the truth of God says. For instance:

**Thank you Lord for this new day of victory,
because you made me more than a conqueror
through Him who loved me.”**

ROMANS 8:37 (N.I.V.)

**“Thank you Almighty Father that I may
serve you today and be successful in whatever I
do; you made me the head and never the tail
and whatever I do shall prosper in my hands.”**

DEUTRONOMY 28

And again:

**“Thank you Father for your presence in my
life, because I can do all things through Him
who strengthens me .”**

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Now, as you can see, we can keep on
proclaiming for hours the blessings that belong to
us, making them our own because **THEY ARE
OF OURS!**

God is our father and, if this Word is His
testament, I as His child, want to make it my own!

I don't allow Francesco Basile to say how I feel.

I am the one who tells Francesco Basile how I
feel!

How can I do it? Through the truth of God in me.

So, from early morning, we have got to establish the Word of God in our life, in our thinking and in our behaving.

Abraham “was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God.”

There is power in praise; there is victory in the proclamation of God’s goodness.

Our mouth is an instrument of praise and God is looking for people who adore Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Whenever we proclaim His word on our life, speak it into our circumstances, sing it and make it our life style, then our faith gets straightened out and no “bug” (doubt, unbelief, discouragement or unfairness) will be able to get hold of us and infiltrate us, because we trust in the Name of Jesus.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

ROMANS 10:17 (King James)

When we speak the Word, we are also listening, as are the people around us, to what we are speaking

God changed his name from Abram, which means “chief father” to Abraham, which means

“father of a multitude of nations”. Therefore, whenever Sarah, the wife of the man of God called to him, she was actually saying to him: *“Abraham Father of many nations lunch is ready.”*

On a daily basis Abraham made his faith grow by hearing the Word of God. At breakfast, lunch, dinner and who knows how many more times a day, those countless stars God had shown him and that limitless land He had promised to him flashed over and over again in his mind.

If we want the “Faith of a Champion”, we must learn to speak as God does, to declare His words, to pay attention to His instructions, to make His Word our own word.

James writes in the third chapter of his letter:

“Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.”

JAMES 3:4-5a

Our tongue, which is literally our speaking, really drives us wherever it wants.

The “**wind**” represents the Spirit and the size of the “**ship**”, the ability that you and I have.

Only when we learn to be good helmsmen who rely on the “compass” of God, will our lives take the right direction, and the great things that our tongues eventually boast about will be the great things of God.

Let us, therefore, learn to speak positive of our life, our relatives and of all that the Lord has created, because a man will reap what he has sown.

Faith doesn't grow out of complaints or speaking of the surrounding problems. Faith speaks the Word of God, so that through the Holy Spirit, it might enter our circumstances and turn them to our favour.

Dear reader, you need to understand something:

God is interested in you - very interested indeed.

It doesn't matter what kind of situation you may be going through, there is nothing too difficult for God.

Start to confess the truth of God on the situations of your life, refuse to put your hope and belief only in what you see all around, but open the door to the Spirit of God and let Him enter into your life and release His blessings and help.

Begin to study what the Bible says of you and take possession of all that belongs to you!!!!



La fede crede

Faith believes

Chapter 3

FAITH BELIEVES

“Being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”

ROMANS 4:21

“Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

HEBREWS 11:1

“All things are possible with God.”

MARK 10:27b

“All things are possible to him who believes.”

MARK 9:23b

True faith believes in full assurance.

The fruit of our faith is determined by what we believe. If a belief is in contrast with the Word of God, it will never allow the Word to work in me, because I am believing a lie and God confirms His word - and His word alone.

Abraham was “**fully satisfied**”, “**secure**” knowing that the Lord was able to fulfil the Word of His promise.

Abraham understood that our GOD IS THE GOD OF HIS WORD. When He utters something of His mouth, He makes it happen!

Perhaps we are too used to discussing, over and over again, everything and everyone, because of our negative experiences from the past, when we were betrayed by people whom we had trusted in, but God cannot lie.

Because He is not a man, our God always keeps His promises, whatever the cost!

Abraham was “**fully convinced**” of what God had promised him. He believed it and therefore was rejoicing and cheering as though he had already obtained what was promised. The Word says he was “**satisfied**” because he knew whom he had believed; God, the only true God, who speaks into existence things not yet existing!

Our God is amazing, unique, omnipotent and works on our behalf infinitely beyond whatever we can think or imagine.

In the second letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes: “**His Promises are YES and AMEN**”; they are not, as many believe, “if and

but”. They are **“YES and AMEN”**, which means “it is done”.

This means you and I can rejoice in the Lord, run, jump, shout for joy, because God is on our side and, if God is for us

“If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”

ROMANS 8:31b-32

It is not enough to just believe; having faith means to believe the Word of God and act on it.

As we had to believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths Jesus as Lord of our lives, according to His Word, to receive Him as our Lord and Saviour, in the same way, faith requires us to believe the Word of God, and act on it in every other situation as well.

Many say they believe on God, yet their actions do not match with what He taught and commanded; this is not faith.

I call this mysticism and unbelief.

If I do believe in God and His Word, even though everything and everyone says the opposite to me, I must keep on standing firm on what I do believe.

Faith is picturing and receiving in our hearts the fulfilment of the promise, even before we see the results.

Notice this kind of faith in a pregnant woman, for instance. Medical checks say a child is growing in her womb: something wonderful did happen! Even though this woman cannot either see anything with her eyes or yet perceive with her senses, the faith that, very soon, she will have a child has been born within her. All she has is the word of a doctor, and the only document she can rely on is her medical results.

I grant you, that woman will never more doubt the fact that she will soon have a baby and that the doctor's word had a solid foundation; she will start to see, already finished, what is ahead of her, and choose a name for the blessing she is going to receive, because she believes what the doctor has said to her.

We should start to rejoice even more, and be fully convinced that all that the Lord has promised will surely come true in our lives, because we have the word, written by the Holy Spirit of God and the promises of the Creator, not merely of the doctor.

Faith may be compared to a small seed, which once sown, doesn't produce any visible change in the ground it was planted in; on the surface, no

fruit may be seen or picked, yet the assurance exists that very soon the fruit of that seed will grow there.

The same was true for Abraham; his faith in God and in His Word changed the surrounding circumstances, turned the weakness of his age into strength and changed death into divine healing.

Abraham won over adverse circumstances, challenging them by the Word of God and believing God was faithful and able to accomplish what He had promised.

It is the same is for us today; we've got to believe in God and His Word, and act on it.

Smith Wigglesworth, a man of great faith, who lived about a century ago and had the privilege of seeing the power of God at work through him to accomplish awesome things, even to the extent of raising the dead, made this statement:

“I am neither moved by what I see nor what I feel; I am moved by what I do believe.”

Smith Wigglesworth

When all we believe is the Word of God, when what we dream are His promises, and when whatever we say is just His Words, then our faith will be the Faith of a Champion, and we will surely obtain what we own in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to God who gave us all we need in Christ. Jesus said on the cross, **“It is finished.”** Now is the time we must walk in faith, as people who have chosen to believe a great God, who is pleased with mere little men!!!

We have got to dream big for God’s work: multitudes coming to be saved. God is for us.

Let us not limit God with a small and poor faith, our God is an awesome God and can do beyond what we can think or imagine.

EPHESIANS 3:20

Raise your eyes and look around, because God is willing to bless your family, your city and your nation.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

and

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR WHOEVER
BELIEVES

Jesus said:

“All things for which you will pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.”

MARK 11:24

Jesus said “all things”. Other translations say “whatever you ask”; if your heart is completely surrendered in God’s hands, your mind filled with his thoughts and visions and your mouth with his marvellous words, get ready because God’s miracle is going to reach out to you.

Remember, you receive what you also believe!

Refuse to believe lies and negative things, believe the truth and begin to dream, because the best is still to come.

As you begin to move daily in accordance with the Word of God, then your life will change and all that surrounds you will become an opportunity to put your faith into practice.

Dear friend, always keep in your mind that your best is still waiting for you. God has already opened his arms towards you and is waiting - you simply take what is already yours in faith.

Abraham, after he had steadfastly kept his faith, saw the promise of God fulfilled in his son Isaac, and even today, the offspring that God promised him keeps multiplying and growing more numerous than the stars.

You and I are part of that offspring, and the same blessings God poured on Abraham’s life are ours in Christ today.

We shall multiply, grow and see the Almighty God at work in our life, if God finds, in us, the same characteristics of Abraham's life.

Prayer:

“Thank you Holy Father for your kindness. Thank you for the blessings you have already prepared for me ahead of time. Father, I pray you reach out to my heart now, with your Holy Spirit. I surrender and lift up to you every part of me, as a love offering, to say “Father lead me in Your Way”. Today I make the decision to live by faith, that You may transform me, ever increasingly in the image of Christ, in love, hope and faith: the

FAITH OF A CHAMPION!”

Amen

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