



Scripture Nugget - Faith that considers not the circumstances glories God

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body as [already] dead (for he was almost a hundred years old) and the dead womb of Sarah. He did not doubt God's promise in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to do. That is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." (Romans 4:19-22).

God promised Abraham that he would receive an heir through his wife Sarah (cf. Genesis 17). At the time of this promise, Abraham was about 99 years old and Sarah 90 years old! Abraham had a keen sense of humor, he chuckled to himself. However, he took the promise of God seriously and considered not his almost dead body or the aged womb of Sarah. Abraham did not allow his rational thinking to affect his faith in what God can do. Abraham is led by the spirit, and through faith and love of God in his heart, he was able to overcome his rational mind and logical thinking.

Years earlier, God subjected Abraham (originally Abram) to a similar trial when He called him out of his home in Haran to journey to the Promised Land at a time when Abraham was around 75 years old! It was a substantially uprooting for him, taking his aged wife, their nephew Lot and all that they possessed to travel to a land they did not know or ever visited. *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go (Hebrews 11:8).*

Abraham was not a perfect man. He had his human weaknesses. However, his heart was open to all the graces God was giving him in order to fulfill God's will. He believed in the words and promises of God, knowing that God's ways are different and nothing is beyond His power. He let the love of God in his heart be transformed into a solid trust of God that whatever God wills would be for his welfare and that of his loved ones. He let his spirit lead him and was able to ignore his logical mind which told him that no possibilities exist in what God had promised. Abraham "considered not" his aged, almost dead body when God promised him an heir. Instead, he focused on filial obedience to God's Word and steadfast trust in His promises. Thus, Abraham enjoyed the peace of God.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, without faith, it is impossible to please You. Abraham was exemplary in faith and trust in You. Through him, You manifested Your glory and bestowed Your blessings on nations and peoples including myself because of Abraham's solid fidelity to Your Word. A childless, aged man became the father to descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky! Through his lineage, the Messiah would issue forth, totally favoring the destiny of the human race. *For whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith (1 John 5:4).* Make my faith in You as strong as that of Abraham so that like Abraham I may not consider the distracting circumstances but focus only on obedience to Your Word and promises. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk