

## Against All Odds

Gen. 15:1-6

1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."

5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:18-21 (TPT)

18 AGAINST ALL ODDS, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise and expected God to fulfill it. He took God at his word, and as a result he became the father of many nations. God's declaration over him came to pass:

"Your descendants will be so many that they will be impossible to count!"

19 In spite of being nearly one hundred years old when the promise of having a son was made, his faith was so strong that it could not be undermined by the fact that he and Sarah were incapable of conceiving a child.

20–21 He never stopped believing God's promise, for he was made strong in his faith to father a child. And because he was mighty in faith and convinced that God had all the power needed to fulfill his promises, Abraham glorified God!

### 1. Against All Odds... Take God at His Word!

*18 (TPT) - Against all odds, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise and expected God to fulfill it. HE TOOK GOD AT HIS WORD,*

### 2. Against All Odds... Your faith must override the facts!

*19 (TPT) - In spite of being nearly one hundred years old when the promise of having a son was made, HIS FAITH WAS SO STRONG THAT IT COULD NOT BE UNDERMINED BY THE FACT that he and Sarah were incapable of conceiving a child.*

NIV - "Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact"

Romans 4:17 - As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and CALLS THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

KJV - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### **3. Against All Odds... Never stop believing God's Promise!**

*20a (TPT) - He NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING God's promise*

(NIV) - Yet he did not waver

(KJV)- He staggered not

James 1:6-7 - But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

KJV - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

### **4. Against All Odds... Be strong in your faith!**

*20b (TPT) - ...for he was MADE STRONG IN HIS FAITH to father a child.*

James 1:2-3 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.( cheerful or hopeful endurance)

### **5. Against All Odds... Glorify God!**

20c TPT - Abraham GLORIFIED God

*NIV – and (Abraham) gave glory to God,*

Philippians 4:6 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

(TLB) – “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don’t forget to thank him for his answers.”

## **6. Against All Odds... Be Convinced of God’s power to carry out His Promises!**

*21a (TPT) - And because he was mighty in faith and CONVINCED THAT GOD HAD ALL THE POWER needed to fulfill his promises*

Acts 27:23-25

23. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me

24. and said, `Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

25. So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

Acts 27:26 - Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

Heb. 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.