

## **You Can't Keep A Captive's Hopelessness When You Have A Deliverer's Destiny!**

You are either a captive or a deliverer!

Romans 4:18-21(CEV)

18 God promised Abraham a lot of descendants. And when it all seemed hopeless, Abraham still had faith in God and became the ancestor of many nations.

19 Abraham's faith never became weak, not even when he was nearly a hundred years old. He knew that he was almost dead and that his wife Sarah could not have children.

20 But Abraham never doubted or questioned God's promise. His faith made him strong, and he gave all the credit to God.

21 Abraham was certain that God could do what he had promised.

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### **1. Face the facts head on!**

Vs. 19(CEV) - Abraham's faith never became weak, not even when he was nearly a hundred years old. He knew that he was almost dead and that his wife Sarah could not have children.

Vs. 19(NIV) - Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

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.

The scripture did not say that God "calls things that are as though they were not... It says that He "calls things that are not as though they were"!

"I am healed"..."I am blessed!"..."I have wisdom from God!"..."I am free!"

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.

The word “weakening” in “Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact” means, “to be feeble to be diseased, impotent, sick, etc.”

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## **2. Hold on to God’s promise!**

Vs. 20a (CEV) - But Abraham never doubted or questioned God’s promise.

20a(NIV) - Yet he did not waver (withdraw from, KJV-staggered not) through unbelief regarding the promise of God,

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;

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## **3. Realize that your strength is in your faith!**

20b(CEV) – His faith made him strong,

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)

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## **4. Give God all the credit!**

20c – and he gave all the credit 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.”

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## **5. Be certain about God’s ability!**

Vs. 21(CEV) - Abraham was certain that God could do what he had promised.

Now it’s awfully hard to be persuaded of what God says, if you don’t know what He said!

NIV says, “Abraham was fully persuaded”

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.

**Face the facts head on!**

**Hold on to God’s promise!**

**Keep exercising your faith!**

**Give God all the credit!**

**Be certain about God's ability!**

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