



Sunday January 16, 2022
How To Receive What God Has Provided (Part-2)

Quick Review:

God Has Already Made Full Provision

The Provision Has Been Made

God Provided It, So We Can Have It

Abraham Received From God

We are called to walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham.

Romans 4:17-21

17 (as it is written, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

The first step, that we considered last week was simply:

BELIEVE GOD

#1, Abraham Believed God

We Believe God And His Word

Today:

We will discover the next three steps that Abraham took, as he journeyed into receiving what God has promised.

BELIEVE GOD, EVEN IF IT IS HOPELESS



We are considering the steps of faith that Abraham took as he received what God has promised or provided for him.

The second step we can outline from Abraham's journey of faith is that against all hope, in hope, he still believed.

#2, Against All Hope, In Hope, He Still Believed

Romans 4:18

who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "so shall your descendants be."

There was no reason to hope, and yet Abraham had hope.

Then in hope, he believed.

Thus, he became, what God had spoken.

This is an important principle in exercising faith in God – to have hope (an expectation, a longing, a desire) even when things seem hopeless, even when all logical reason for hope is gone. The Word of God inspires hope in our hearts. We can let expectation arise in our hearts because of who God is and what He has spoken.

There must be hope first. Hope is in the future. This hope then causes faith to be stirred up. Faith is the assurance, the proof of ownership, of things hoped for. Faith then pulls what we hope for (based on the Word of God) out of the realm of the future, into the now, into our possession.

In hope, Abraham believed. While hope is important, we must not leave what God has promised as just a hope that we might have what He promised, sometime way in the future. We must move from hope to a place of faith.

"..so that he became...according to what was spoken.." The objective or the desired result of faith is to see the fulfillment of that which has been promised to us. That we become according to what God has spoken. God has spoken and continues to speak to each of us through His written Word and by His Holy Spirit. This produces faith in our hearts. We hope for its fulfillment. And we exercise faith in the Word. The result of our faith is that we become what God said we would become, we have what God said we would have, we accomplish what God said we would accomplish.



The second step we learn from Abraham on how to receive what God has provided is to believe, even if it seems hopeless.

We see our Lord Jesus teach and demonstrate this in His earthly ministry. We will point to two situations where the Lord Jesus encouraged people to believe, even in seemingly hopeless situations, when all reason for hope was gone. Both are quite familiar to most of us, and so we will only make a quick reference to these incidents.

Fear Not, Only Believe

Mark 5:35-36

35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, when he was interrupted by the woman with the issue of blood who touched Him in faith. He paused to speak to her. While this was happening, news came from Jairus' home that his daughter who had been very ill had died. Things had gone from bad to worse. People had given up and said there was no need to have Jesus come, since the girl was already dead. But what was Jesus response in a moment like this: "do not be afraid, only believe".

Would Jesus tell us the same thing today in our hopeless situations when things go from bad to worse? Yes, He surely would. He would still say 'fear not, only believe'.

If You Believe, You Will See The Glory of God

John 11:39-40

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Jesus arrived four days after Lazarus had died. Jesus asked for the tomb stone to be moved. Martha was naturally concerned. It was just too late for anything to be done. And yet, in such a hopeless situation Jesus speaks about believing. Believe and you will see the glory, the might power of God.



Would Jesus tell us the same thing today in situations that just seem too late? Yes, He surely would. He would still say 'believe and you will see the glory of God'.

So the second step to receive what God has provided, is to BELIEVE GOD, EVEN IF IT SEEMS HOPELESS. We are believing God and His Word. We are not believing some fantasy or some imagination of our own wishful thinking. Make sure you have the Word of God on the matter. Believe God, believe His Word, even if it seems hopeless.

DO NOT LET CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE YOUR FAITH

We are learning how to receive what God has provided. We are looking at Abraham, the father of faith, and the steps of faith he took to receive from God.

The third step we can outline from Romans 4:17-21 is that Abraham was not weak in faith and did not look at the circumstances.

#3, He Was Not Weak In Faith And Did Not Look At The Circumstances

Romans 4:19

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Abraham recognized the physical impossibility - both he and his wife were aged, and Sarah his wife was barren. And yet, he did not allow the fact of the natural circumstances to restrain him from exercising faith in God.

We do not deny the reality of the circumstances we have to deal with. The problems, the calamities, the hurt, the pain, the sickness, the torment, the financial crisis, etc., are real and yet we have the promises of God which tell us that He can turn these around. We are not in denial. We are very aware of the facts. Yet, we make a deliberate choice to look beyond the circumstances and have our hope fashioned "according to what was spoken".

We refuse to let our faith weaken because of the situations. Our focus is not on the natural situations but on the promise of God. This is an important key to prevent your faith from being weakened.



There was a time when Abraham was quite discouraged. He was looking at all the time that had elapsed. He saw that in the natural there was no way he and Sarah could have a child. He began to reason with God. When Abram was tired of standing in faith, God told him to look up into the night sky and see the countless stars (Genesis 15). When you are feeling tired of standing in faith, refresh your vision based on the promises of God. Paint a fresh picture of seeing God's promises being fulfilled in your life.

To keep your faith strong, focus on God and His promises and not on the circumstances.

Pay attention to God's Word

Proverbs 4:20-22

20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;

22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

Lean over to God's side and listen to His Word. Lean away from the voice of fear, doubt, worry and unbelief. Fill your ears, your eyes and your heart with God's Word.

One of the ways we do this is by meditating in God's Word. Take the Scriptures that speak on what God has provided for you through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Keep meditating on them day and night. *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night"* (Psalm 1:2).

Speak Faith

Our faith is birthed, nurtured, and sustained by hearing the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

You can speak God's Word and cause yourself to hear the Word of God, causing faith to be nurtured in your own heart. God taught His people to do this in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 30:11-14) and the apostle Paul repeated this for us in the New Testament (Romans 10:6-8) teaching us that we who have righteousness by faith, speak the Word of faith.



The third step for us on how to receive what God has provided is: DO NOT LET CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE YOUR FAITH. Instead, stay focused on the Word of God. Meditate in the Word. Speak the Word to yourself to nurture your own faith.

REFUSE TO WAVER

The fourth step we can outline from Romans 4:17-21, as Abraham came to receive what God has promised is that he did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief.

#4, He Did Not Waver At The Promise Of God Through Unbelief

Romans 4:20

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, ...

James 1:6-7

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

The word 'waver' in Romans 4:20 is the same word used in James 1:6 translated 'doubting'. It means to oppose, strive with dispute, contend, to be at variance with one's self, to be divided, hesitate, doubt. As James puts it, a person who is doubting or wavering is going to be 'driven and tossed'. Sometimes going this way, and sometime going the other way. Sometimes 'on' and sometimes 'off'. Sometimes in faith, and sometimes in unbelief. And James states emphatically, that if we are like this, we cannot receive anything from God.

Unbelief (Greek '*apistia*') is faithlessness or the absence of faith. Unbelief causes one to doubt, waver and stumble at the promise of God. Unbelief hinders one from receiving the fulfillment of the promise of God. Guard against unbelief. Guard against anything that comes to rob you of faith in your heart - fear, worry, doubt, reasoning, natural limitations, past experiences, etc.

Understand the different sources of unbelief: (A)our own mind (B)sources around us, and (C)thoughts of fear and doubt from the enemy, the devil.

Sometimes thoughts of unbelief could be our own mind at work. Remember you can have faith in your heart, while your mind still does not understand, or your mind still



wonders. Faith, as we learnt from Hebrews 11:1 is 'the evidence of things not seen'. There is conviction in your heart based on who God is and what He has spoken, while the mind has no factual evidence to rest itself on. What we must learn to do is to train our mind to rest in God and His Word. This is what the Bible refers to as the renewed mind. The renewed mind is a mind that is rested on God and His Word. Isaiah 26:3 teaches us that when our mind is rested on God, we can be at perfect peace.

Sometimes the unbelief can come from sources around us. People may not know God and His Word. People may not understand the basis of our faith. Now you do not blame them for their lack of knowledge of the Word of God. And don't try to explain your faith to them. They may not want to hear it. What you need to do is simply guard against things they may say that contradict the Word of God.

Side note - relating to the medical profession: Walk with some simple common sense. For example, if you are going to the doctor, understand that the doctor has your well-being in mind. The doctor has your best interest in mind and is speaking as a medical professional. Don't sit in front of the doctor and 'speak the Word' or 'make your faith confessions' in the doctor's office while the doctor is giving you the medical report. If you don't respect the doctor or didn't want to listen to what the doctor had to say, why did you even go there in the first place? Be respectful. Listen to what the doctor has to say. Understand what the doctor says. Be grateful for their care and medical expertise. Now, once you are back home, you can decide how you are going to extend your faith in this situation. Remember, what we mentioned in our very first chapter on faith and responsibility. God wants us to be responsible for the knowledge and resources He has made available to us. There is nothing wrong in cooperating with the doctor and receiving the medical attention they have prescribed, while at the same time extending your faith in God and His Word. In fact, sometimes you just need to do this, so that you can have the time to build your faith up, to receive what God has promised.

Getting back to the sources of unbelief. A third source of unbelief are thoughts of doubt and fear the enemy, the devil and his demons, throw at us in our minds. These come as thoughts, ideas, pictures and imaginations that are interjected into our minds, causing fear and doubt.

Quench Fiery Darts With The Shield Of Faith

Ephesians 6:16

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.



The apostle Paul taught us to use our shield of faith to nullify, extinguish all the fire tipped darts thrown at us by the wicked one.

Stand firm in the faith. Keep your eyes on the Word. And an important way to raise up the shield of faith is to hold firm to the confession or declaration of your faith.

So, step four: REFUSE TO WAVER

SUMMARY

Let's review the four steps we have covered thus far in: How to receive what God has provided:

- 1, Believe God
- 2, Believe God, even if it is hopeless
- 3, Do not let circumstances dictate your faith
- 4, Refuse to waver

We will continue this message and look at the last 3 steps Abraham took as he journeyed into seeing God's Word fulfilled in his life.

SALVATION CALL

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12

If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6

If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12

If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12

If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday January 16, 2022
How To Receive What God Has Provided (Part-2)

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Take turns to read the following Scripture references: *Romans 4:17-21*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Discuss the following based on the first four steps of faith, that we outlined from Romans 4:17-21

1, In step 2, we stated "Believe God, even if it is hopeless" as Abraham demonstrated in his faith walk. Why can we believe God, even in the midst of hopeless situations? Would Jesus still teach us "fear not, only believe", when things go from bad to worse?

2, Do not let circumstances dictate your faith



Imagine Abraham looking at himself and his wife Sarah, both aged and Sarah barren. Abraham did not let the reality of the situation dictate his faith. How do we practice this in our own lives?

3, Refuse to waver

Doubts and fear assail all of us – including Abraham. He had his moments of doubt and wondering. And yet he seemed to get back into that place of believing God, and eventually steadied himself, in a place of faith. What can we do to counter thoughts of fear and doubt that impinge our thought and imagination, so that our heart remains firm in faith?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

SERMON BRIEF

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing. These are grace provisions that God has already made. God is waiting on us to receive what He has provided through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Looking at the steps of faith that Abraham took, we discover how we can receive what God has already provided.

KEYWORDS

Believe, Receive What God has promised, Steps of faith, faith of Abraham

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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