

When Faith Falters

Introduction: When Jesus put a call on your life, He promised you ultimate victory, but He never said that winning would not come at a cost. The Christian experience is a life lived by faith in spite how things may appear. We are to rest in God while reaching for the upward call of Christ. Victory is upward, defeat downward. Your upward progress can be measured by the rate of your faith-growth. If a tree is not growing; it's dying. If faith is not growing; it's faltering. Abraham's faith was tested and when it faltered, God was gracious and He restored his faith.

- Abraham answers God's Call: **Genesis 12:1-4** *Now the Lord said to Abram: Get out... to a land I will show you... and I will...* So Abram departed. God's initial call on a person's life is often short of specifics. It would not require much faith to follow God if He gave you all of the details in advance. Stepping out in faith always involves stepping into a degree of uncertainty. When Abram answered God... he went. Has God placed something in your heart that requires a step of faith?
Faith: Don't over-think it, don't over-pray it, or you might over-step it.
- Abraham's faith is tested and it fails him: **Genesis 12:10-16** *Now there was a famine in the land and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there... please say that you are my sister that it may be well with me...* God's call on a person's life does not come with a guarantee of smooth sailing. Storms always hover of the horizon... so too do blessings. God allows trials into His children's lives that their faith may grow.
Faith: Trails come, embrace them, learn from them, grow from them.
- Abraham receives an intervention from God: **Genesis: 2:17-20** *But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house.... Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way.* God is in the business of renewal and restoration. Don't allow yourself to believe that He can't fix your latest failure. Jesus died for your success and to give up on yourself is to give up on the cross. God was able to reach when you were in the wilderness, He can surely reach you now.
Faith: It's never over unless God says it's over.

The New Testament says that the modern-day believer has been adopted into the Old Testament family of faith of whom Abraham is the father. When Abraham answered God's call, he set off on a lifelong journey of faith-growth. So too, when you answered God's call you were sent on your own faith-quest. God didn't call you to abandon you. He called you to set you free and make you victorious. Keep the faith. Grow your faith.