

3. Strengthened in Faith

Abraham was being strengthened by the promises and goodness of God so that he could believe in them in spite of the odds and not waver through unbelief.

Romans 10:17 NKJV - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Jude 20 NKJV - But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

4. Gave Glory

Abraham's believing gave glory to God – it honored God.

1 John 5:10 NKJV - He who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

John 3:33 NKJV - He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

5. Fully Persuaded

Romans 4:21 NKJV - And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Abraham's persuasion was built on the omnipotence of God and the character of God.

2 Timothy 1:12 NKJV - For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

HOPE AGAINST HOPE

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INTRODUCTION

Romans 5:3-5 NKJV - 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Some of the greatest revelations and growth in our lives are produced through trials and tribulations.

I. FOUNDATIONS OF HOPE

Romans 5:5 NKJV - Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1. God's Love

John 3:16-17 NKJV - 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 John 3:1 NKJV - Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

Romans 8:28 NKJV - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

2. God's Presence

John 14:16-18 NKJV - 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

3. God's Word

Romans 15:4 NKJV - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

II. APPLICATIONS OF HOPE

Romans 4:17-21 NKJV - 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.

1. Considered Not

In an encounter with God Abraham shares his heart's desire – to have a child through whom he could pass down the Promised Land.

Genesis 15:5 NKJV - "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Romans 4:19 NKJV - 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.

We are to look at circumstances through the eyes of faith – not to turn away from them as if they don't exist, ignoring them or denying them– but look straight at them with the eyes of faith.

2. Wavered Not

Romans 4:20 NKJV - He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.

James 1:6-8 NKJV - 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; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Abraham didn't hold any self-consultations in his mind even though the arguments of sense, and reason and experience were against him.