

❖ Preparation vv. 9-11

❖ Fulfillment Delayed vv. 12-16

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

ROMANS 8:28 (NIV84)

❖ God's Covenant vv. 17-21

**God's New Covenant: Righteousness offered through faith in His Son.**

❖ God prepared His son.

❖ God established His New Covenant.

❖ Righteousness through faith in Christ.

❖ Complete fulfillment is yet to come.

### How to Become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. ROMANS 3:23
- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you.

JOHN 1:12, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 3:20

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast."* EPHESIANS 2:8, 9 (NIV)

Dr. Kevin McKee  
Sermon Notes

March 11, 2012  
The Chapel on the Campus

**Genesis: Lessons from the Faith  
and Failure of Our Spiritual Leaders**

## Living by Faith

GENESIS 15

***The righteous shall live by faith***

HABAKKUK 2:4, ROMANS 1:17, GALATIANS 3:11, HEBREWS 10:38

<sup>1</sup> *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."*

<sup>2</sup> *But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"* <sup>3</sup> *And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."*

<sup>4</sup> *Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."* <sup>5</sup> *He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."*

<sup>6</sup> *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

<sup>7</sup> *He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."*

<sup>8</sup> *But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"*

<sup>9</sup> *So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."*

<sup>10</sup> *Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.*

<sup>11</sup> *Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.*

<sup>12</sup> *As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.* <sup>13</sup> *Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country*

not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—<sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

GENESIS 15 (NIV84)

God reaffirms His promise of children through His \_\_\_\_\_.

- **God’s Promise of Security and Reward** v. 1

Faith in God’s Word is our source of \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Abram Questions** vv. 2-3

We are to bring our \_\_\_\_\_  
to God.

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (NIV84)

- **God’s Promise and Sign** vv. 4-5

Faith in God’s promises is our source of \_\_\_\_\_.

Abram trusts God.

- **By faith in God’s Word we \_\_\_\_\_  
His blessings.** v. 6

*Belief is conviction based on testimony that something is true or that someone is reliable. As used in the Bible, to believe in God involves the element of trust, not mere acknowledgment of his existence.*

BAKER ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE BIBLE

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

HEBREWS 11:1 (NIV84)

- **By faith in God’s word and promise, righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_ toward us.**
- **We must be \_\_\_\_\_ to be in relationship with a righteous God.**

*Righteousness is fulfillment of the expectations in any relationship, whether with God or other people.*

BAKER ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE BIBLE

- ❖ God is righteous.
- ❖ God expects righteousness.
- ❖ No one is righteous.
- ❖ Therefore, we need righteousness.

God reaffirms His promise of land with a \_\_\_\_\_.

- **God’s Promise** v. 7

God’s past faithfulness demonstrates His character and gives us \_\_\_\_\_ for the future.

- **Abram Questions** v. 8

By faith in God’s Word we \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ what God has promised.

- **God’s Promise and Sign** vv. 9-21

God establishes a \_\_\_\_\_, demonstrating his faithfulness.