

Abraham

Part 1

(Revised 4-18-2013)

In the Bible, God gives us examples of people who had **faith** in Him and His promises. Abraham is one of them. At the age of 75, God told Abram to leave his country, his relatives and his father's house and go to the land He would show him. God promised Abram great blessings if he would do as he was told. Abram had **faith** in God and he did obey. What a great example of someone just leaving so much behind and doing what God told him to do! (He was permitted to take his wife, Sari, and his nephew, Lot, and a few others.) He really did trust God and God is faithful!

Genesis 12:1-3a Now the Lord said to Abram *[Abram was born as an Arab and became a Jew at age 99 and his name was changed to Abraham] "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name [person] great; and so you shall be a blessing;

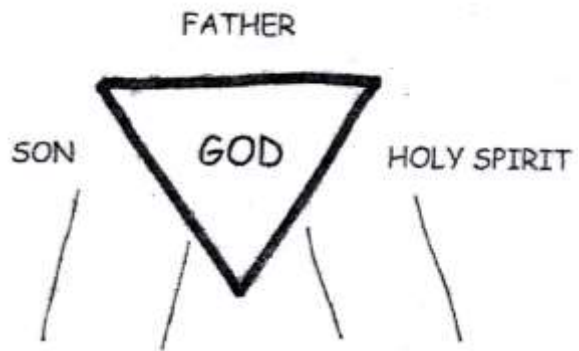


Abraham did not have a son, but God promised him he would have one. God always keeps His promises! Through Abraham's family line of believers would come the Lord Jesus Christ. So, God had to give him a son! Abraham just didn't know when this would happen. At times he grew **impatient** waiting, but he always came back to having **faith** in God and His promise of a son. God is faithful!

Romans 4:18 In hope against hope he [Abraham] believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE [Genesis 15:5] ."



True friends give each other time to work things out in their lives. They are patient with each other. God gave Abraham time to work out things. He didn't say, "That's it Abraham! You haven't done as I asked you to do so I'm out of your life." God gave Abraham time to grow spiritually. And, eventually, Abraham gave God time to work out things in his life. He was patient with God and His timing. God needed time to bring Abraham to the point of knowing Him and loving Him. Abraham needed time to learn about God and how magnificent He is!



Hebrews 6:11-14 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.



God did give Abraham conflicts and testing of his **faith**. Abraham failed many times because of fear and impatience, just like we do. However, God always came through for him and gave a fuller revelation or knowledge of Himself after each challenge! Failure is an opportunity for God the Father to demonstrate how great He is! He can make us strong! Through the conflicts and testing Abraham grew stronger in **faith** in the Lord and in His promises. God and Abraham became friends!



Our God is an awesome God!

Romans 4:20 Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were old when they finally had a son. He was 100 years old and Sarah was around 90! He had been waiting for a son for 25 years! Sometimes we can't wait even 5 minutes for something we're promised! At those ages it was impossible for them to have a child; they were past the child bearing years! However, God did the impossible; He made it possible for them to have a child. At the right time, God's timing, Isaac (which means laughter) was born. Abraham and Sarah were thrilled to have a son!

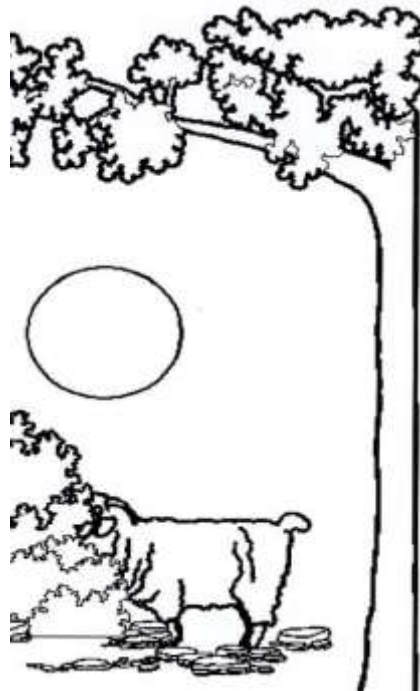


Genesis 21:6-7 Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

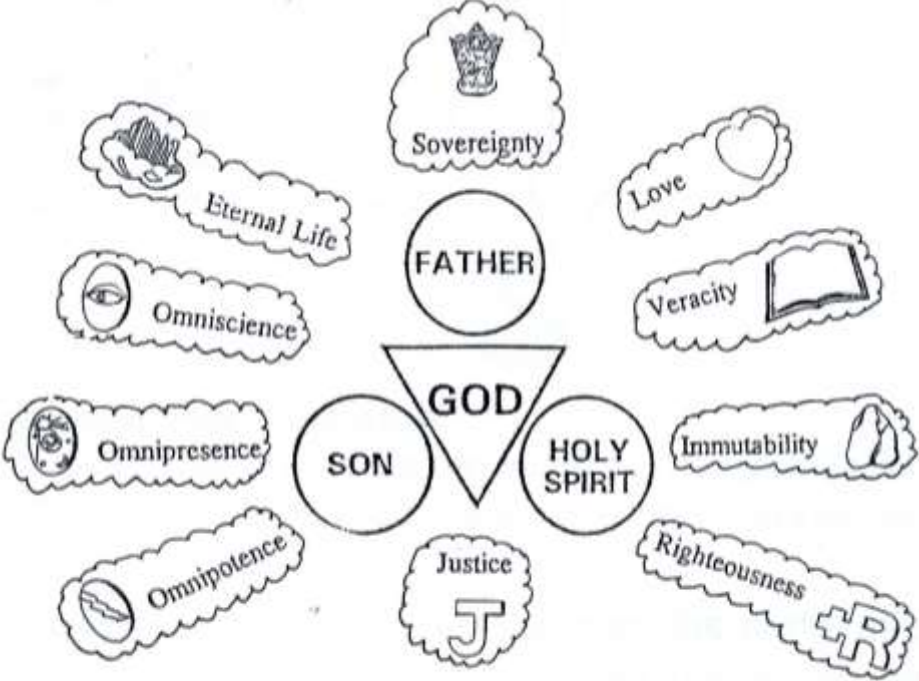
God kept building up Abraham's **faith** in Him; each time Abraham failed, God came through for him. God kept teaching Abraham more and more about who He is. Then God tested his **faith big** time! (Genesis 22:1b-2) "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." Can you even imagine how difficult that was for Abraham? God wanted to see who Abraham respected more: the gift - Isaac, or the Gift Giver - God.



God wanted to see if Abraham still had **faith** in the promise of many descendants. Isaac needed to live for there to be descendants! Abraham respected God the most and had **faith** in His promise. He just didn't know how God would save the day, but he knew He would! So, Abraham set out to do as God commanded. As he was about to slay his son, the Lord said to him, (Genesis 22:11-12) "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear [respect] God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." God provided a ram in the bushes for Abraham to sacrifice in place of Isaac. Abraham had **faith**. Isaac must have had great **faith** also! And God kept His promise!



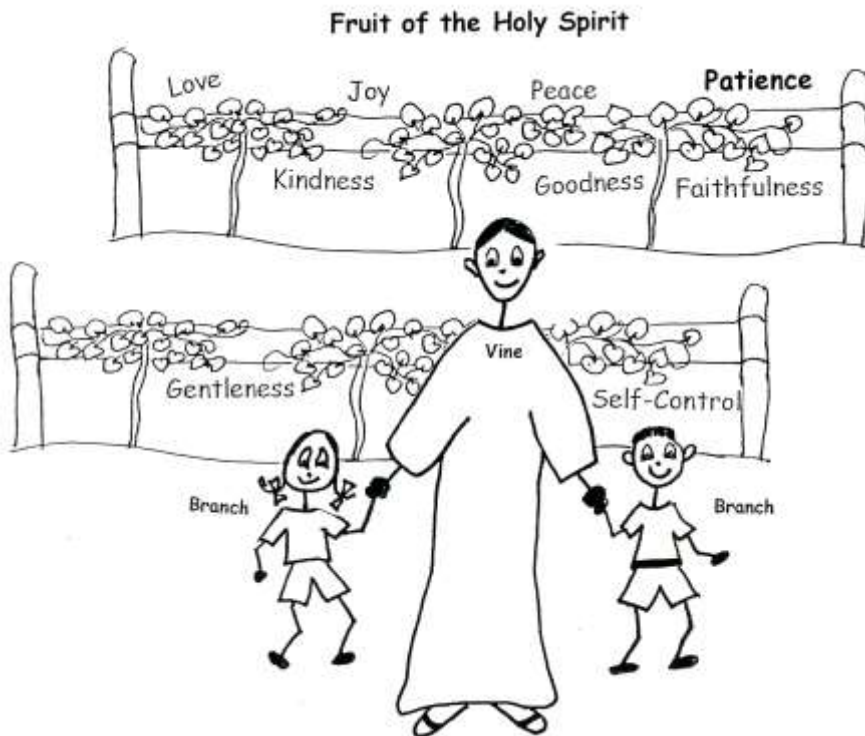
Abraham kept his eyes on the Lord and waited patiently for Him to handle the situation. He knew God's attributes! God is: justice, righteousness, sovereignty, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, love, immutability, veracity, and eternal life. (JR SOOO LIVE) He knew God could do whatever He said He would do! Abraham could completely have **faith** in and trust in God, just like we can. God was promising the line of Abraham, those who were believers, to continue to the birth of Jesus Christ. That's a lot of descendants!



Our God is an awesome God!

Genesis 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Abraham teaches us to respect the vital element of TIME. God uses time in maturing us in the spiritual life. He gives us time to let us know He IS our Friend and for us to become His friend! When we are weak and fail, God just wants us to turn to and use His word and the power of God the Holy Spirit. We have to be willing to let Him help us. We have to be willing to let Him pick us up! We have to believe what God promises us in the Bible. He had patience with Abraham, and He has patience with us. God never gets tired of picking us up and taking us forward in the spiritual life. He has all the time it takes!



Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.

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