

Series: Thriving in Faith

Title: Fixing Fumbled Faith Seeds

Text: (Gen 12:1-4; 7-8)

*Illus: I like watching Football FAIL videos.
Fumbles can be funny.*

Faith is the Identifying Mark of a Christian. (John 6:29)

Then Unbelief is the Greatest Evil! (John 3:18)

Unbelief is the Mother of All Sins.

Unbelief Ties the Hands of God! (Matt 13:58*)

Not because of any IN-Ability on the part of Jesus.

We Christians are to LIVE BY FAITH.

(2 Cor 5:7) *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

(Hab 2:4b) (Rom 1:17) (Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38)

The Just shall live by Faith.

4 Times this verse is repeated in Scripture. (Rom 1:17)

Accomplishment of God's Miracles are measured by our faith

(Matt 9:23) *According to your faith be it unto you.*

(Mark 10:52) *Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.*

(Matt 15:28) *great is thy faith be it unto thee even as thou wilt*

Do You Want To Please God? There is only 1 way!

Believe Him, Take Him at His Word! (Heb 11:6)

Faith Honors God!

Are You Struggling in your faith b/c of your circumstances?

(1 John 5:4)

“Pastor, I have a Mountain of Problems!” (Mark 11:23)

So, What do we do when our Faith gets Weak?

This place is called Bethel, and the man's name was Abram.

(Gen 12:1-4; 7-8)

Abram called upon God at Bethel: Vs 8

(Rom 10:13, Eph 2:8-9) *Grace Through Faith.*

Abram Builds an Altar: Evidence of his faith, (Heb 11:1)

Everyone needs to have a Bethel experience too!

(Jn 6:44) He will not call forever!

Where is your Altar? Have received Christ?

(John 1:12) *power to “Receive” Him.* - (Rom 10:9)

Where is your Bethel? When! Where! How?

On the other side of every Mountain, is a valley:

A Famine: (Gen 12:10) *And there was a famine in the land:*

God has a reason for testing our Faith!

(James 1:2-4) (1 Pet 1:7)

We don't live by Understanding or Explanations!

How exactly could God explain it? (Is 55:8-9)

We Live by Promises and Principles! (Rom 8:28)

Faith is not believing without Evidence.

Faith is Believing in spite of OUR Circumstances!

Abram's Faith Falts because of Compromise w/the

World: (Gen 12:1)

(Gen 12:2-3) Powerful Promise to claim!

(Gen 12:4) **WHOA! Wait a minute!**

Obedience doesn't take Human Rationalization.

DO What your Told, When your Told, With a Good Attitude.

Abram's Compromise with the World Weakened His Confidence in God (Gen 12:10) (1 Jn 3:21)

He gets out of God's Will by going down to Egypt: (Vs 10)

Egypt is a Picture of the World! (Is 31:1)

(Mark 2:9) ***Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?***

He Lies to Save His Skin & Manipulates to get wealth:
(Gen 12:11-18)

Sin makes him rich in the short term: Vs 16

But sin always costs you!

You cannot Sin and Win. (Prov 6:27-28)

It Cost Him His Time:

Time in Fellowship with God. (James 4:17)

Time is the Blessings of God.

(Rom 14:23c) ***"for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."***

It Cost Him His Testimony: (Gen 12:17-20)

Abram DID NOT go into Egypt Alone!

Lot learned that He could ignore God's Word if the profit was high enough.

Parents, Our children are watching OUR SELECTIVE Obedience & are being Exposed to Egypt's Sins & Psychology.

God will have to scourge that out them eventually.

It Cost Abram his Time, his Testimony, & TROUBLE:

Abram got 2 things in Egypt that caused him heartache.

He Got Wealth: (Gen 12:16)

(Prov 15:6b) ***but IN the revenues of the wicked is trouble.***

(Gen 13:6-7) Strife with Lot's Herdsman for resources.

(Prov 10:22) ***The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth NO sorrow with it.***

Abram got Wealth, and He got Workers:

Men servants & Maidservant - "Slaves" -

One in particular! - Hagar, she begets Ishmael,

Diference Fellowship vs. Relationship: (Jn 6:37, Jn 10:27-29)

Paul knew how that felt and told us in (Rom 7:14-25)

Abram: In his messed up, backslid, out of fellowship condition shows us how to FIX our FALTERING FAITH.

Start with Repentance: (Gen 13:1)

Second, Remember the World has nothing to offer:

(Gen 13:3)

Abram Returns to Bethel to get it Right! (Gen 13:3-4)

I can tell you where to find God!

He is right where WE left Him!

Seek Restoration: (1 John 1:9)

(Gen 13:4) *there Abram called on the name of the LORD.*

We all struggle with Sin, but we have an advocate with the Father! (1 Tim 2:5)

Secure Revival:

We Must Humble ourselves & Cry out to God (2 Chron 7:14)

(Gen 13:14) When Abram was finally right with God...

God gave the Blessing! (Gen 13:14b-17)

(Gen 13:18) Abram continued on in his faith journey.

Where are you Today?

Have you ever been to Bethel the 1st time?

Are you living in the Heaps of Ruin of the World's Hai?

Do you need to be saved? Have you had a Bethel experience that you can remember when and where it happened to you? God has made you a Promise. (Rom 10:13; 9-10)

What about you! For many of you, this is your Bethel!

Are you in Egypt? Have you gone back to the Old Life?

Back to the same Language you used to use.

Back to the same Habits you used to give into.

Back to the same Attitude you used to exhibit.

You can tell because your... **Your Joy is Gone.**

Your Relationships are messed up.

Stuck in a rut spiritually - Its Time for Personal Revival!

Repent! - COME BACK TO BETHEL!

Do you remember when you got saved?

It can be sweet like that again!

You can have your joy back, just come back to God.

Reconnect with God! (1 Jn 1:9) (2 Chron 7:14) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Recommit to His Word! 3 chapters a day.

Reinvest in His church! 3 to Thrive in 2017!

Relive your salvation experience: Retell it to someone else!

Abram had a time when his faith Faltered: (Gen 12)

But He went back, had Revival, Received the Blessing!