

Sermon Growth Guide

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Trust God | Romans 3:5-20

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Key Verse: “Without weakening in his faith, Abraham faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. (Romans 4:19)

Big Idea: Faith and trust go hand in hand. One puts faith in someone or something and then trusts that that object of their faith is trust-worthy, worthy of their faith and trust through faith in Jesus Christ.



Foundations

“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.” Everything visible and factual contradicted the promises of God. Abraham’s body was old and “as good as dead” and “Sarah’s womb was also dead.”

How could the God he knew perform the miracle of granting Abraham and Sarah a child in their old age? It would not take great faith in God but it would take faith in a great God.

It was not the amount of faith Abraham had but where they placed their faith.

As Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 4:18 puts it this way: “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” So much of our everyday lives we are victims of the visible. What we see is what we get. How can we change that?

Understanding God’s Word

The apostle Paul uses Abraham’s faith as a model for how we should live a life of faith. Abraham “believed God” more than he believed the realities that surrounded him. God has the power to bring life out of death. God can make something out of nothing. Abraham trusted God whom he could not see more than he trusted the earthly reality he could see. Again, he believed God when everything he knew and saw contradicted his beliefs. This was not blind optimism, but faith in God.

Applying God’s Word

Our lives are often messy and hard, and we might begin to believe that that is a failure of God’s plan. No, often it is God’s plan. Just as Abraham was challenged in his faith so we are often challenged in our faith to believe the God whom we cannot see more than the reality staring us right in the face. Is there a relationship, a circumstance, a reality in your life that is seemingly contradicting your trust and belief in God? Is “what is seen” overwhelming “what is unseen” in your life. As Pastor Tim shared last week, “this is the work of God that you believe.” Believing is work, hard work when life seems messy and hard.

Witnessing God’s Word

Take some time to identify the areas of your life in which you need to trust God and live by faith. Pray that you might have victory of faith over doubt, of trust over unbelief in that relationship, in that circumstance, in that difficult and painful reality in your life. Have faith in a great God whom you can trust with your whole life.