

**OUR FAITH CEMENTED BY
GOD'S KINDNESS**
Genesis 15

INTRODUCTION

Through this character study of Abraham, we are discovering what a true relationship with God and fellowship look like. In Genesis 12-14, God has done most of the talking.

In Genesis 15, Abram's relationship with God becomes more of a dialogue. Abram speaks from his heart; filled with fear, doubts, and questions. God's responses reveal His great patience, assurance, and loving kindness.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 15 several times. In this study, we will observe the back and forth between God and Abram. Consider how you may relate to Abram, and the grace with which the Lord (Adonai – supreme Master) so patiently and mercifully builds his faith.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

- I. Verse 1. God's reassurance. Abram has just experienced great blessing and victory, but he is not confident. He has doubts and fears. It's normal for man of faith to be afraid. God knows and brings an encouraging word.
- II. Verses 2-3. Abram's disappointment & doubt. He thought he knew what God had promised, but now questions how God can come through. Abram is confused, even discouraged perhaps. The father of our faith pours out his heart, expressing his grievance. Scripture has many examples of those who have fears, doubts, questions, even complaints. Beloved, don't beat yourself up when you feel like this too. It's ok to be honest with your Lord God. He knows and even expects it! Read on!!
- III. Verses 4-5. God responds. Rather than scold or react in anger at Abram's honest complaint, the Lord continues to confirm His word to Abram. God will reinforce His promises to us over and over too. He doesn't mind repeating Himself in this way. *Isaiah 42:3, 1 John 3:20.*
- IV. Verse 6. Belief. Abram is convinced, "And He accounted it to him for righteousness." Faith is the basis for all who are born again. Abram is our example. *Read Romans 4, Galatians 3, 2 Corinthians 5:21.* What a glorious gospel we have by faith in Jesus Christ! Faith is what it takes for you to be declared righteous before a holy God! *Selah*
- V. Verses 7-11. Abram questions again, God guarantees. We can relate to Abram. He had just believed, and now he asks God 'how?!' An honest conversation with God is healthy. He can handle your fears and doubts, your persistent questions. *Psalms 62:8, Jeremiah 33:3.* The Lord God enters into a covenant with Abram. Cutting the animals in two, making an aisle to pass between – pictures God's commitment to give the land He promised for Abram's descendants.
- VI. Verses 12-16. The future revealed. Darkness is falling, perhaps a picture of Abram's grief over the slavery his descendants will experience. How long will the Lord allow evil (the Amorites) to prosper? Have you ever wondered that? Read *Psalms 37 & 73.* Rest assured, the Lord is in full control. Any Scriptures speak encouragement to you about this?
- VII. Verses 17-21. The NEW COVENANT! The LORD ALONE passed through. This covenant is not dependant upon Abram at all, but is based on the Lord's faithfulness alone. A picture of salvation by grace, not man's merit. Isn't this a better covenant, beloved? *Selah*

CONSIDER The Lord God – Adonai - has some things for us to contemplate. Make this personal, beloved.

- Salvation – your rescue from sin's just penalty – the Lord alone has made the way through Jesus' death. **Praise Him.**
- Responsibility – your duty to be able to receive God's gracious salvation – you have a part to play. **Believe Him.**
- Do you realize the Lord wants you to be honest with Him about all your fears & doubts? **Talk to Him.**

PRAY

- Upcoming events – NE Pastor's Conference 9/26-28, Shepherd School 10/24-11/4
- Prayer ministry – Church Sunday evenings, Women's Tuesday, Men's Saturday, During church services in prayer room
- Church Bible studies – Foundations Class, Inductive Bible Study Class, Women's Bible Study, Home Fellowships
- Local outreaches & ministries – Street Evangelism, Barn Blessing 10/8, St. John in Exile 10/14 & 15,
- Opportunity to join CC Rochester in their Ethiopia ministry. Sunday evening will have an update & time of prayer.