

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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"INHERITING GODS PROMISES"

Heb. 6:12 ...that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Every promise that we have as New Testament Christians God desires to see us walk in. Imagine for example if you had a child who showed great promise in a given field of work that they were passionate about, and you as their parent wanting to help them achieve success pay ahead of time for all their college education that will help them to obtain their goals. But then your child decides to not go to college and instead pursue something that they are not passionate about but they choose to go a different direction. How frustrating for that parent knowing the potential in their child and not seeing that potential reached.

Gal. 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*"),

Gal. 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

I believe it is so with God. Jesus who has paid the price for us to be redeemed from all that is in the curse of the law has taken care of our tuition. We must make the choice to educate ourselves through the Word of God in how we can now become partakers of the inheritance that we have been given. As scripture teaches us that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus (Rom. 8:17). Our payment has been made and we now through faith and patience can inherit the promises that have been given to us through Jesus Christ. As Paul states in our foundation text this week we are not to become sluggish, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit those promises. So this week I want to take time to look to God's Word and see exactly how this works.

Heb. 6:13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, Heb. 6:14 saying, "*Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.*"

Heb. 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

In these verses that follow our foundation text we see that one of the examples given to us to imitate is Abraham. As Hebrews 6:12 tells us all we have to do is look to those like Abraham who received what God

promised them and imitate what they did that brought them into that promise. When God promised Abraham that He would bless him and multiply him neither one of these promises came to pass immediately, but they did come to pass. As verse 15 above tells us Abraham had patiently endured and he obtained what God had promised. Don't let that word "patience" get you discouraged, but it is a vital part of what we must have to walk in our inheritance. It takes both faith and patience to do so. This as we will see is where many believers are missing it. So we have Abraham for an example therefore all we have to do is go to the scriptures and imitate what he did. Let's take a look.

Rom. 4:17 (as it is written, "*I have made you a father of many nations*") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

Rom. 4:18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "*So shall your descendants be.*"

Here in verse 17 we have God's Word that God had made Abraham a father of many nations. I will come back to this point in a minute, but let's look at verse 18 and notice that Abraham contrary to hope, in hope believed. The natural circumstances did not look positive for this promise to come to pass. Abraham was well advanced in age and Sarah his wife was barren and unable to have children. What was it that Abraham put his hope in? He put his hope in what God had spoken, "So shall your descendants be." Remember faith is the substance of things hoped for. Bible hope means to have an expectancy. You cannot expect something to come to pass unless you know you have God's Word on it.

As simple as this may sound, many times when you ask believers about what they are believing God for you find out that they have no scripture to go along with what they are wanting to receive from God. You need God's Word on it. In the midst of the times when it may seem like nothing is changing your hope needs to be founded in God's Word, what He has said. This leads me back to verse 17 where God was already calling Abraham a father of many nations. We are a part of that fulfillment today. It goes on to say in verse 17 that God who gives life to the dead, including things that seem to no longer have any life in them, calls those things which do not exist as though they did. Here is where faith and patience must come together.

First off, God is the greatest example of faith we have. If God calls those things which do not exist as though they did shouldn't we? I will answer that for you, yes we should as Ephesians 5:1 tells us, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children." Many already know this about Abraham but it is vital to inheriting God's promises. His name had been Abram, but God changed His name on purpose to Abraham. Abraham means, father of a multitude. God was filling Abrahams mouth with what

He had said was already true of him. Abraham was now calling those things, which do not exist as though they did. So where does the patience part come in?

Rom. 4:19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Rom. 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

Abraham was not weak in faith because he did not consider his own body, the natural circumstances. The word consider is defined as fixing one's mind upon. He didn't waver at the promise of God through unbelief, instead he was strengthened in his faith by giving glory to God. The word patience in our foundation text means "constancy". Faith requires a constancy or consistency to work. That means you must never stop doing what faith does. There are two things that Abraham did consistently that brought him into the promise God had for his life. He called those things which did not exist as if they already did and never stopped doing so. Many say, "If I call myself healed when I am not I am lying." Not true. You may have something in your body that does not belong there but it won't go away until you start declaring what God says. John 17:17 says God's Word is truth. There is no higher truth on the planet, so when you say what God's Word says you are not lying.

The second thing Abraham did constantly was giving glory to God. In Luke 17:11-19 you find the story of ten lepers who came to Jesus to get cleansed of their leprosy. Jesus told them to go to the priests, which is what one did to be examined to see if their leprosy was gone. As they went they were all cleansed of their leprosy. But one of them came back and fell on his face before the Lord the Bible says giving Him thanks. Jesus then asked why he was the only one who came back to give glory to God. You see Abraham was strengthened in faith giving glory to God. Abraham continually gave thanks to God for what God had said was already so.

Rom. 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham did four very important things. He never stopped expecting what God had said to come to pass. He continued to call those things which did not yet exist as though they already did. He continually gave thanks to God for what He had promised him. Last but not least he would not fix his mind on what he saw in the natural, he stayed focused on the Word that God had given to him. It is no different for us. If we will imitate this very pattern that Abraham walked in we to will by faith and patience inherit God's promises.