

Dealing With Uncertainty



Life's Questions



- Will I do well in my exams?
- What university will I go to?
- What course will I study?
- What type of work will I find upon graduation?
- Will I ever get married?

Abraham



Gen 12:1 – 5:

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

*"I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

*I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."*

So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Abraham



Gen 15:1 – 6:

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

*"Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward."*

But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Abraham



Heb 11:8 – 10:

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

God's Promises to Abraham



Heb 11:13:

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

- God's promises to Abraham:
 - Make him into a great nation ✓
 - Bless him ✓
 - Make his name great ✓
 - All peoples on earth would be blessed by him ✓
 - Will have a son ✓
 - Offspring as numerous as the stars in the heavens ✓

How can we deal with uncertainty?

1. Prayer
2. Searching the Bible for answers
3. Waiting on the Lord



1. Prayer



Phil 4:6 – 7:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Abraham's Servant



Gen 24:10 – 18:

Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'-let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

Abraham's Servant



Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

"Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

The Prayer of Faith



- *James 5:13 – 16:*

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- A prayer of faith is one that is offered in accordance with God's will

The Prayer of Faith



- Example of Job

Job 1:20 – 22:

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;

may the name of the LORD be praised."

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

The Prayer of Faith



- "in Jesus' name"
- *John 16:23: In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name*
- praying a prayer that Jesus would pray
- Dan 3:17 – 18:

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

2. Searching the Bible for answers



Psalm 119:105:

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.*

3. Waiting on the Lord



Psalm 130:

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
O Lord, hear my voice.*

*Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.*

*If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?*

*But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.*

3. Waiting on the Lord



*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.*

*My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the
morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.*

*O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.*

*He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.*

3. Waiting on the Lord



Rom 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Summary

Uncertainty: life would be dull without it.

Pray!

Search the Bible for answers,

Wait on the Lord.

Have Faith!