

9th Sunday after Pentecost, 8th Sunday after Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 8/6 at 4:00 | Sunday, 8/7 at 9:00



Text: Selections from [Genesis 15](#); [Hebrews 11](#); [Luke 12](#) NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: May this sermon encourage us to **believe** God's promises, **put** our faith into action, and **have complete trust** that cancels *all worry!*

1. **Though the LORD's Promise Seemed Impossible** ➔

Abram Believed: [Genesis 15:1-6](#): ...the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram...; Your reward shall be very great." Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless...?" ... Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "...one... will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." And [the LORD] took [Abram] outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Then [Abram] believed in the LORD; and [the LORD] reckoned it to [Abram] as righteousness. // Abram was 75 years old and had no children, **yet he believed the LORD's promise** ([Romans 4:20-21](#)), which was fulfilled when he was 100! The LORD has also made many promises to you; **do YOU believe?**

2. **Because of Their Faith → They Took Radical Action:**

Hebrews 11:1-11

- a. ¹ Now **faith is** the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.... // By our God-given faith, *we are certain God will fully keep every promise!*
- b. ⁴ **By faith Abel** offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain... // What made Abel's offering better? He offered it from his faith, *which made it acceptable to God!*
- c. ⁵ **By faith Enoch** was taken up so that he would not see death... for... he was pleasing to God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. // Enoch ▶had faith, ▶lived by his faith, and ▶was pleasing to God!
- d. ⁷ **By faith Noah**, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household... // God said to Noah, "...the earth is filled with violence...; and behold, I am about to destroy [the people] with the earth. Make for yourself an ark... the length [510 feet, the width 85 feet, and the height 51 feet]" (Gen. 6:13-15). // Destruction! Ark! Sounds impossible, *BUT by faith Noah built an ark!*
- e. ⁸ **By faith Abraham**, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.... // By faith Abraham, *at 75 years old*, left the place called Haran (11:31) and traveled to a place the LORD would show him – *a place unknown to him*. It didn't make sense, *BUT by faith he obeyed!*
- f. ¹¹ **By faith even Sarah** herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since

she considered Him faithful who had promised. //
When we have FAITH, it doesn't matter what the
promise is, *but THE ONE who made the promise!*

- g. What should we do? ▶ Believing the Bible is God's word, *let us read it!* ▶ Believing the Bible is best for us, *let us live it!* ▶ Believing the HS works through the Bible to transform hearts and lives, *let us share it!*

3. **When We Fully Trust → Worry Is Canceled: Luke 12:22-34:** ²²...[Jesus] said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your* life, *as to* what you will eat; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on." // People with faith are at peace, while people without faith worry.
- a. Why No Worry? ²³ "For **life** is more than **food**, and the **body** more than **clothing**." // Since God has given us **life** and **body**, *He will certainly give food and clothes!*
- b. Example 1: ²⁴ "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!" // *Rejoice! We are so valuable to God!*
- c. Don't Worry: ²⁵ "And which of you by worrying can add a *single* hour to his life's span? ²⁶ If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?" // Average American life: 79 years = 692,040 hours (8760 x 79). One more hour is like a drop in a bucket *BUT worrying cannot add even a single drop!*
- d. Example 2: ²⁷ "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil [work] nor spin [as in the cloth-making process]; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is

thrown into the furnace, how much more *will He clothe you? You men of little faith!* // Since God clothes the very temporary grass, *He will surely clothe us!*

- e. Guidance:²⁹ “And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.” // **By faith** we keep growing up in God’s word – *confident that He will provide our needs*☺, while the lives of unbelievers are consumed by the *needs* and *pleasures* of this fallen and temporary world☹.
- f. Encouragement:³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.” // In comparison to the whole world, the believers are few, a little flock, *but eternally blessed!*
- g. Guidance:³³ “Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” // What do YOU treasure, cherish, value – *temporal things or eternal things?* When the HS prompts you to ▶read your Bible, ▶pray, ▶attend DS and BC, or ▶share your faith: what temporal thing is hindering YOU? How is the HS calling you to repent, to start treasuring eternal things?

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, we have heard, and we know, *BUT HELP US TO ALSO BELIEVE AND LIVE UNTO YOUR GLORY!*

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