

Faith & Doubts

Genesis 15:1-16

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Have you ever had doubts about life and faith?

What do you do when what you know about God doesn't match your present situation?

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- We all come with ideas and expectations about who God is and what that will mean and look like in our lives.
- Doubts often arise when our expectations of God and our life do not match our present situation.

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- In calling Himself Abram's shield God is revealing to Abram more of who He is and what Abram can expect of God.
- Knowing and being known by God is the greatest reward we could get.
- Are we satisfied in God or are we still seeking satisfaction in earthly rewards?

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- Faith is believing with certainty in God and who He is.
- We are justified through our faith in Jesus alone. Not by works. (Gal 2:15-16)
- Faith is to be accompanied by actions that align with who we know God to be and who we are called to become like. (James 2:22-23)

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- Jesus often does not meet our expectation and ideas.
- Our expectations are often based on what we see in our sinful world and often match what we already believe and want to see happen in our lives.

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- God's promise to Abram: He would have many descendants and he would take possession of the land he was in.
- Abram's reality: He was still childless and was staying in a land he did not possess, a land possessed by others.
- The mismatch between the promise and the reality is where doubts and questions often arise.

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- Our faith must be grounded in who God is so that when doubts and questions arise we are drive back to God for more clarity and understanding of who He is and His plans for us.
- When our faith is in the promises of God as we understand them, doubts often begin to direct us away from God and more to our own understanding.

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- Until we see God and God's plan for us makes perfect sense we will always have doubts that arise from time to time when our situations doesn't match our expectation of God.
- If our faith is grounded in the certainty of God's unchanging character, our doubts should redirect us back to God to learn more, to gain a deeper understanding and a clearer picture of who He is and what He is doing in our lives.

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- Where does your present situation not meet your expectations of God?
- Bring God your doubts and questions. Ask Him. Talk to Him.
- Listen for His response.
- Adjust your understanding of who God is to what God reveals.
- Realize you may not see it fully until you get to the end of your current season/journey of faith.
- Until then keep talking, keep coming back to God. Remain firm in your faith in who God is.

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