

TITLE AND NUMBER: 228 Trust in God

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Genesis 15:1-6,18

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, '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 who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.' He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky 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. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.'



LOOKING FURTHER: Genesis 15:1-18; Luke 22: 14-22; Hebrews 10:8-18; 1 John 1:9

What does the Bible passage tell us?

God had promised Abram (later called Abraham) that his descendants would become a great nation. However, Abram and his wife Sarai were getting old and beginning to question whether what God had promised would ever happen. God assured Abram that he would have as many descendants as there were stars in the night sky.

The Bible tells us that Abram believed what God said, and, because of this, God regarded Abram as righteous. We may feel that we struggle to please God; this passage encourages us that simply trusting God's word is enough to make Him pleased with us.

Later in the chapter (verse 18), we read that God made a covenant with Abram. A covenant is a special binding agreement that will never be broken. The Bible records five particular covenants God made with His people; with Noah, Abram, Moses and David, and ultimately what is called the New Covenant which is His loving commitment to each one of us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 10:16-18).

Of course, God did keep His covenant with Abram, and he became the father of the Jewish nation. God also keeps His covenant with us; if we confess our shortcomings, He will wipe away every trace of them, transform our thinking and our way of living and welcome us into His family (1 John 1:9).

Even today, important binding agreements may still be marked with a wax seal. God gave Abram a visible sign of His covenant. He has given us a sign too, in the person of His Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Reflections

- Like Abram, you can be regarded by God as righteous simply by believing His words. Reflect on His promises and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to really believe them, even when times are hard.
- How can we know that God has made a covenant with us? If you're unsure, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you. You may get reassurance from the Bible, from something someone else says, or by something unexpected that happens in answer to your prayers.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Trust

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

