

Series: Thriving in Faith (02/12/17)

Title: Faith Beyond Ourselves

Text: (Gen 18:1-14)

I. God's reappearance to Abraham and Sarah: (Vs 1)

“the LORD” - Theophany: God the Father in human form.
(Vs 13, 22, 33) Confirms it (JEHOVAH)-Self Existent
Melchizedek king of Salem: Christ-ophany: Jesus

(Vs 2) Abraham knew who he was encountering!

Review the Bedrock of Faith Message (Gen 15:6)

The Lord did not rebuke Abraham for doing it. (Rev 22:8-9)
This is the Heavenly Father coming to speak to His friend
Abraham, Face to Face.

Do you have that level of Intimacy with God?

Why not? Are you afraid to be transparent with God?

Foolish to try and hide it!

Come Clean with God!

Get Clean with God!

Look Him in the Eye by Reading His Word!

(Ch 19:1) confirms the other 2 “Men” were angels.

What would you do if God showed up at your door:

Would you know it was Him?

*Illus: As a youth Pastor, my favorite thing to do was go
visiting my teens on their day off from school.*

How would things be different if God was coming over today

Is He welcome? Have you asked Him?

Vs 3-5 Would God be welcome at your house?

Would He feel welcome?

(Vs 6-8) Abraham stood with them so as to serve them.

Abraham is super wealthy, his servants have servants.
Abraham was not too wealthy/proud to serve.

Your Opportunity to serve God is NOW!

You can't go back in time and carry His cross.

You can't fast forward to the Throne, but you can serve Him
now! (Matt 25:34-45) **“done it unto me”**

II. God Confirms His promise of a son Isaac, by Sarah:

**(Vs 9-10) “I will certainly return unto thee according to
the time of life;”** (Gen 17:21) *“set time in the next year”*

(Gen 18:10) *“time of life”* - Spring time.

24 years have passed Since (Gen 12)

(Vs 11) (Heb 11:11-12) Faith Beyond Ourselves

(Vs 12-13) “Sarah laughed within herself,”

(1 Sam 16:7) *“God looketh upon the heart.”*

**(Gen 18:14) *Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the
time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the
time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.***

God is our Creator: We live in His creation & are Part of it.
(Jer 32:17) *Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the
heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out
arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*

The Devil wants us to focus on God's Delay's as Failures
WE dare not limit God

He is still the same God as He always was! - (Ps 24:1-2)

God is not limited by our circumstances: Don't let the devil fool you into believing God is not interested in you!

Elisha got what he asked for: - What he had faith for.

This morning we need to leave here believing that there is NOTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD!

Our faith is not in ourselves, its in our Omnipotent Creator

There is No PROMISE too hard to fulfill:

There is over 7,487 promises by God to man in the Bible!
Some favorite ones we hear a lot are:

(John 3:16) (Rom 10:13) (Phil 4:13) (Phil 4:19)

(Deu 33:27) *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*

We need to Launch out on His Promises:

Illus: *My kids are the best at reminding me of my promises.*

(Num 23:19) *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

(John 14:13-14) *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, **I will do it.***

Find a promise that addresses your need & remind God!

"You said..."

(James 1:5) *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

(Luke 11:13) *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Illus: *Benny claims them to his brothers! "Dad Said so!"*

These are PROMISES we can Claim!

Illus: *We have all had people make us promises then back out, or "FORGET" and they are so sorry and feel bad, and say some thing like "I will make it up to you!."*

GOD IS NOT GONNA OWE US ANYTHING!

He will not be a debtor to man, He said it, He will perform IT!

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There is No PROMISE too hard to fulfill:

There is NO PRAYER too hard to answer!

All of us have had answered prayer at one time or another.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE LAST ONE?

Illus: ***The Same God that split the Red Sea when Moses asked,***

(Matt 7:7) *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

He is the Same God that held the sun still when Joshua Asked,

Matt 21:22 *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

He is the Same God that rained fire on Mt. Carmel when Elijah asked,

Mark 11:24 *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

He is the Same God when you ASK!

(James 4:2) Maybe you don't receive because you don't ask?

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There is NO PRAYER to hard to answer!

There is no problem TOO BIG for God to Handle:

The Old Black Spiritual said, *"Troubles Trouble, All God's Chilluns Got Troubles!"*

We all have problems; We all get into Tight Spots!

EVERY Character in the Bible had problems of one kind or another.

Anyone who tries to live for God has problems.

Illus: Health-(Ps 103:1-5), Finances-(Phil 4:19), Marriage-(Eph 5:33), Parenting, Career, Mother in Laws

PS 37:3-8 will fix most of the problems that come our way!

Key Words, Action Words: Trust, Do Good, Delight,

Commit, Rest, Fret Not, Cease from Anger,

There is no problem TOO BIG for God to Handle:

Our faith is not in ourselves, its in our Omnipotent Creator

There is No PROMISE too hard to fulfill:

There is NO PRAYER to hard to answer!

(Gen 18:14) *Is any thing too hard for the LORD?*

There is NO PLACE where God cannot send Revival:

Revival is a Sovereign Act of God! - ***Why Not Our Church?***

(2 Chr 7:14) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and*

turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

IF - IT HAS TO START IN US!

My People - When, Where, How

Which are called by my name: Is this your testimony?

Does the world call you Christian b/c you are Christ-Like?

It's Time we reclaimed this name from the Frauds & Fakes.

Shall humble themselves - Condemned Sin in themselves
(1 Cor 11:31-32) *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

Pray - Private Prayer (Matt 6:5-6) Shut Jesus in with you.

Continuous Prayer (1 Thes 5:17) *Pray w/o ceasing.*

Fervent - (Red Hot, Not Flippant) (James 5:16b)

Not checking a box.

Seek My Face - (Acts 17:27) He is not far from us.

Study the Book! (Heb 11:6) (1 Chron 16:11)

Turn from their wicked ways - GET CLEAN! (Is 55:6-7)

(Ps 24:3-6) *Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord,*

Obey God in Every Matter!

Compassionate Burden for Others!

Then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

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There is no problem TOO BIG for God to Handle:

There is No PROMISE too hard to fulfill:

There is NO PRAYER to hard to answer!

There is NO PLACE where God cannot send Revival:

There is NO PERSON TOO HARD to Save!

(Gen 18:14) *Is any thing too hard for the LORD?*

(Is 59:1) *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*

We have all known some hard ones.

When we think of Hard ones to win, it is not necessarily the drunkard or the drug addict.

Often it's the one you that professes to be saved, but you are still waiting to see the fruit and the desire for Godly things!

Or the one that feels God is unfair.

(Mark 2:3-5) The Paralytic Born of Four, His friends had the Faith for Him!

Write out a Prayer list

Involve other to pray, like the 4 friends who carried him.

Build a relationship with those people on the list.

Get them in front of the Gospel.

Illus: They didn't let the tilling and shingles stop you!

Don't let the Devil's excuses stop you!

They're busy.

They have a religious belief.

I don't want to offend them.

What if they stop liking me? Let's deal with this one.

Are you a Christian? Did Jesus save you or did your friends?

Are you planning on hiding this from them forever? No, but-

So you were planning to deceive them into it?

Were you planning to hide it till they got saved and then you come out of closet?

Then it is not WHO or WHAT you really are!

Tell them YOUR Testimony.

Leave a tract for them to Read.

Invite them to watch a Christian Movie with you and discuss it.

Invite Special Service here.

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