

Fear Not

1. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God

Gen. 15:1 ¶ After **these things** the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "**Fear not (first time- humble yourselves)**, Abram, **I am** your shield (mighty hand of God); **your reward** shall be very great (your very great reward)."

these things

- Gen 14:22-24 (after rejecting the world)

fear not

- Gen 26:24 (repeated to Isaac)

- Gen 46:3 (to Jacob)

- Deut 1:21 (to Israel)

I am - your very great reward

- Ps 46:10 (humble yourself - fear is based on pride - a self absorption - God's I am is enough for our I am not)

2. so that at the proper time He may exalt you

Gen. 15:2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Gen. 15:3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

Gen. 15:4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man **shall** not be your heir; your very own son **shall** be your heir."

Gen. 15:5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So **shall** your offspring be."

shall

- 2 kings 5:15-27 (prosperity gospel gets timing wrong)

3. Behold the trust of Abraham

Gen. 15:6 And he believed (aman - to be certain=trust - no walking isle etc) the LORD, and he **counted** (imputed) it to him as righteousness.

counted

- Rom 4:9-25 (this is what trust in God looks like)

- 1 Jn 4:16-19 (God answers our fear IN Christ - perfect love casts out fear and His love is perfect)

4. Cast all your anxieties on Him

Gen. 15:7 ¶ And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans (ex 20:1-3) to give you this land to possess."

Gen. 15:8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, **how am I to know that I shall possess it?**"

how am i to know

- judges 6:11-23, 36-40; 7:9-15 (ask sign)

- Isa 7:10-14 (contrast wicked ahab)

5. because He cares for you

Gen. 15:9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

Gen. 15:10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.

Gen. 15:11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (clinging to promise)

Gen. 15:12 ¶ As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

Gen. 15:13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "**Know for certain** that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for **four hundred** years. (430 years to be exact)

Gen. 15:14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with **great possessions**.

Gen. 15:15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in **a good old age**.

Gen. 15:16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

know for certain

- 1 cor 15:1-8

- 1 Jn 1:1-4

400, great possessions

- Ex 12:35-41 (a sign for us)

a good old age

- Gen 25:7-8 (God keeps His promises)

6. Behold the trustworthiness of God

Gen. 15:17 ¶ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch **passed between** these pieces.

Gen. 15:18 On that day the LORD made a **covenant** with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Gen. 15:19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

Gen. 15:20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

Gen. 15:21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

covenant, passed between

- Jer 34:18-19 (God is invoking a curse upon Himself...)

- Heb 6:13-20 (God answers our doubt IN Christ - His trustworthiness is our anchor)

Fear Not

Intro:

what does it feel like to have genuine faith?

Problem:

It is possible to have a fake faith - Mark 4:1-20

it is easy to believe when there is nothing to fear

it is easy to trust when there is nothing to doubt

what does genuine faith look like in the face of fear and doubt - 1 Peter 1:3-9

what is the sober minded, rational basis for genuine faith - 1 Peter 1:10-13

in other words

what does it actually look like to trust God in the midst of fear?

what does it actually look like that God is trustworthy in the midst of doubt?

1 Pet 5:6-7 - this is the prescription but we need a description

turn to Genesis 15...

Main Idea:

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God

so that at the proper time He may exalt you

Behold the trust of Abraham

cast all your anxieties on Him

because He cares for you

Behold the trustworthiness of God

Implication:

the opposite of fear is not only our humble reliance but our strength and courage - Josh 1:1-9

what kind of life are we meant to be living? acts 17:1-7 turned upside down

Application:

we are often afraid to trust God because we are afraid He will let us down

that we won't be content with His plans for us.

that we will miss out on what the world has to offer.

that an ordinary life is not really extraordinary when lived for Him.

so we hedge our bets and continue to pretend that we believe all the while taking no chances, doing nothing. so often...

Our greatest prayers are for prosperity. Our greatest acts of faith are attendance. Our greatest contributions are convenient. Seeking to avoid a wounded life we inherit a wasted one.

but our faith is meant to change our world to disrupt the status quo to bring light to darkness - it is meant to affect the eternal destiny of those around us - this is not wishful thinking but a sober minded trust in a trustworthy God

- do you want to get well

For further study...

https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/the_assurance_of_thi_hebrews_11_1_12_2.pdf

https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/genuine_1_peter_5_1_14.pdf