

# THE REASSURANCE OF FAITH

## Genesis 15:1-6



### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

(The First Sunday in Lent)

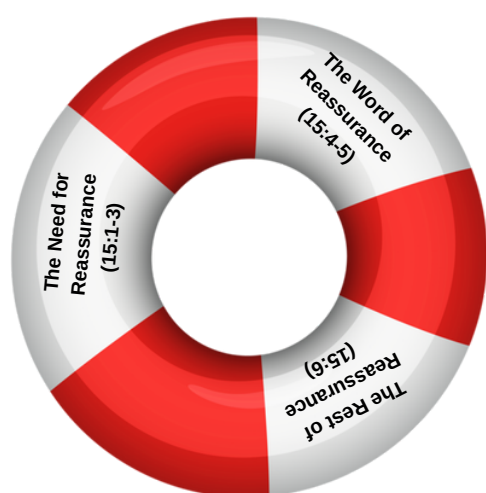


### SERMON OUTLINE

In Genesis 15-16, we see how God repeatedly reassures Abraham of His promises; the same is true for us. Faith is often tested, and doubts can arise, but God wants to reassure us of what He has promised. In this story, we'll explore the dialogue between God and Abraham and discover three themes: the need for reassurance, the word of reassurance, and the rest of reassurance. Just as a lifeguard can provide reassurance in times of danger, God can provide security in times of uncertainty. Join us as we delve into this story and learn how to find reassurance in our own lives.



As God addresses Abraham and he gazes at the stars, his faith grows instead of doubt.



#### The Need for Reassurance (15:1-3)



- o After success in battle (Gen 14), Abraham may trust God for protection (15:1). But what's exposed in vv. 2-3, is that he doesn't trust God for provision.
- o Does your faith run all the way down? Or are there areas of your life you cannot trust God with? This was the place Abraham was in vv 2-3? How is it comforting to know that even Abraham had trouble trusting God in the really important areas of life?

#### The Word of Reassurance (15:4-5)



- o Twice in our passage, we see the phrase, "the Word of the Lord came to Abraham" (15:1, 4). This stresses that Abraham's faith can only know reassurance when it rests on God's word—not human reason or wishful thinking.
- o Does your faith rest on God's Word? Or does it rest on "likelihoods" "odds" and "wishful thinking"?
- o What promises from Scripture can you use to reassure your faith?
- o In verse 5 God does something extravagant—he shows Abraham the stars and says, "So shall your offspring be." What does this tell you about God? Does it suggest that He wants us to trust with more or less?

#### The Rest of Reassurance (15:6)



- o Often, we believe God's promises depend on your performance. Have we been good enough to earn God's favor? But this is not how this passage concludes.
- o Abraham is declared "right before God" (righteous) not because he's been perfect, but because he's "believed." God's promise are based on trusting, not earning.
- o How does this reassurance provide rest for us?
- o Take some time and read Romans chapter 4—it's all about Abraham. How does Romans 4 further unfold the meaning of Genesis 15:6?



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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can we develop a deeper trust in God's specific words rather than relying on vague beliefs or feelings, and what role does faith play in this process?
- What practical steps can we take to resist temptation and rely on our ingenuity instead of trusting in God's promises? How can we cultivate a faith that remains steadfast even in the face of apparent contradiction or uncertainty?
- How might fasting help us identify whether our faith and trust in God go down to the deepest struggles or if it stops at a surface level?
- Do I trust God in all areas of my life, even my deepest fears and longings? If not, what is holding me back?
- How can we respond to doubts or struggles in a way that strengthens our faith rather than causing us to question God's goodness or existence?
- What practical steps can we take to cultivate a deeper trust in God and rely on His promises rather than our own efforts to be righteous?

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***Righteousness in the Bible means being morally and justly right, and for humans to be considered righteous, they must be found acceptable by God through keeping His rules.***



### PRAYER

"Lord, help us to remember that true righteousness comes from faith in you and not our own moral efforts. Thank you for the reassurance that we can trust in your promises, and that you will do what you have said. May we encourage one another in our journey of faith, and may we always look to Jesus Christ as the source of our righteousness. Amen."



#### Further Study

- Gerhard von Rad, Genesis, 183, writes of Abraham's response, "His despondent skepticism in the face of the assurance of divine protection and the exceptionally great divine gift borders on blasphemy."
- "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Heb 11:6).
- Lewis, Mere Christianity, 142.
- Luther's Works. Vol 3, Genesis 15-20, p. 17
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/genesis/>