

Abraham—Walk In the Way of the Lord

Let's pray,

Thank You, our Father, that we do not have to call off to the far heavens for You to come down and be here with us or somehow we have to grab hold of You at a great distance and try to hold on to You, but You have promised us that You would come. You have come, and You do dwell in us and among us. So we look to Christ to be our life this morning, to use Your Word to encourage our hearts and just that we might go away with a sense that You have been glorified and delighted with our dwelling in Your Word this morning. Amen.

Genesis 5:22: "Enoch walked with God after the birth of Methuselah."

Verse 24: "Enoch walked with God, and he was not for God took him."

Genesis 6:9: "These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God."

For the sake of brevity I am just going to refer to him as Abraham throughout. I realize that his name at this point is not Abraham but Abram, but I am just going to call him Abraham all the way through this message except when I read from the Scriptures.

Genesis 17:1: "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless.'"

Genesis 18:19: The Lord is speaking to Abraham and says, "No, for I have chosen him that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice."

So we have three men at the beginning of the Scriptures, Enoch, the seventh generation after Adam, Noah, three generations after Enoch, and Abraham, ten generations after Noah. And it says of all of them that they walked with God. In Abraham's case, when we combine the two verses, we find that in Abraham's life he walked in the way of the Lord. So what I want us to look at this morning is just a couple of occasions or items that the Lord used in Abraham's life that constituted his walking in the way of the Lord. As for all of us, it was a day to day, a continuous walk with the Lord throughout his life from the day that he was called by the Lord.

From these three lives we find that you get the idea that God's desire for mankind was that He would find a man that would walk with Him, and He did find it in these three men.

Just as a side, it is very interesting when you look at the genealogy from Noah to Abraham. When you look at the years it seems as if Noah died two years before Abram was born. Then his son Shem actually lived about 125-130 years during the life span of Abraham; so Shem was there. And Eber, one of the ancestors, actually outlived Abraham. So they were walking on the earth. We do not know, we are not given any insight into whether Abraham had any relationship with them and spoke with them. But it is just an interesting thought.

So the Lord raised up these men to walk with Him, who would represent His interests and His testimony in the world. And so with us, the Lord is looking for an individual man, an individual woman that would walk with Him, that would go through the pains of walking down that hard path which is contrary to the world, contrary to all the things that we see around us. Finally, the Lord's real dealing with His people takes it from the individual and brings it into the corporate. There is a corporate man that God is after; one man in Christ serving God's purpose to His end. We will apply that to our lives here.

Let's look at some of these lessons in Abraham's life. There are three of them that I just want to touch on this morning. One is the revelation that Abraham received, and how necessary it was for him to receive it. Secondly, were the blessings that Abraham received, and thirdly, of course, the faith of Abraham. All of these I want to apply to our own lives both individually and corporately. When I say corporately, I do not mean just this group, but that new man God has throughout the earth.

The Revelation that Abraham Received

Actually, to see this revelation that Abraham had we have to turn to Acts chapter 7 at look at what Stephen said. He was full of the Holy Spirit, and just before he was martyred, the writer of Acts gives us real insight into when Abraham heard from the Lord.

Acts 7:2: "And Stephen said, 'Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, Depart from your land and your kindred, and go into the land which I will show you.'"

Here we have this man, Abraham, who was living in Mesopotamia, the land of many gods. Of course, we can look at his nephew Laban and grandniece, Rachel, both of whom had household gods. Another word for that is terrapins, little statues, idols that had magic powers that would enhance the life of the owner who had that little god. You may wonder if Abraham was not a practitioner of idols himself before the call of God upon his life. It would not surprise me if he had been an idol worshiper. So here probably at the age of sixty, the Lord came and revealed Himself to Abraham out of nowhere. This man who was living in Mesopotamia and then God comes and reveals Himself to his heart. According to Stephen, the God of glory and Abraham later will call Him "the God of heaven who appeared to me." The God of glory appeared to him in Mesopotamia and spoke to him. He promised him and blessed him right there. It was just a marvelous thing that the Lord did to initially bring Abraham into a relationship with Himself. He opened the door, and Abraham began his walk in the way of the Lord.

In the course of the next 115 years, Abraham was sixty at that time, the Lord will appear again eight other times. Once it was an appearance, or it talks about the Word of the Lord came to him, he had a dream in which a vision came from the Lord and spoke to him. We also have the occasion of Melchizedek coming to bless Abraham which we believe is a theophany of Christ, also the time when the Lord and two angels appeared to him and talked to him face to face. So on eight different occasions during his life, revelation came to Abraham, and each instance something more of the life of the Lord was revealed to him. And by that, Abraham grew in his relationship with the Lord.

So with us, a necessity for revelation, for God to come and sovereignly reveal Himself to our hearts. The Scripture says that before we were saved, when we were helpless, we were sinners, we were the very enemies of the Lord and said, "Men, by his Spirit, came into our lives and revealed Himself to us." The Lord initiated this in our lives. I do not quite understand people that are preaching repentance in order for ones to be saved, in order for the Lord to come into their lives. I do not see it that way, and perhaps it is because that was not what happened in my life. I did not repent; I did not even hear the word of the Lord, but the Lord sovereignly revealed Himself to me, and He just came into this dirty vessel, one who was just a reprobate in all ways. The Lord, just by His Spirit, came and touched me and changed my life by revelation.

I just want to read a couple of verses in the New Testament that talks about this matter of revelation, both initially and then as we go on with the Lord.

Paul in Galatians talks about his own life and how the Lord revealed Himself to his heart. Galatians 1:15-16 Paul says of himself, "But when He who had set me apart before I was born and had called me through His grace was pleased to reveal His Son in me in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles."

Even before Paul was born, there was already a calling upon his life by the Lord. And I cannot believe that Paul was unique in humanity that that would be true in his case and not in all of our lives. Before we were even born, the Lord had called us. This is an amazing thing. Then at the right time in Paul's life and in our lives, at the very time that we needed it, the Lord was pleased to reveal His Son in me, in us. This is a marvelous thing the Lord has done for us initially and brought us out of the darkness into the wonderful kingdom of His life.

Then in Galatians 4:8-9: Paul applies this to the church in Galatia and to all our lives as Christians.

Formerly, when you did not know Him, you were in bondage to beings by nature who are no gods, but now that you have come to know God (then Paul catches himself) or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back to weak and barely elemental spirits?"

"When you came to know God," no, no, no that is not the truth, that is not the reality. The reality is as he says, "or rather to be known by God." God came and revealed Himself to all of us. What was true initially in our lives has to be true also throughout our walk with the Lord. Everything that we receive that buoys up our spirits, that encourages us in the Lord, comes not by our effort, not by the diligence of our Bible studies or are our prayer life or anything that we do in ourselves, but it all comes from the Spirit that just sovereignly reveals Himself to us.

Again in Galatians 1:12, after Paul had gotten saved, and he had been in Damascus and went into Arabia for a number of years, Paul says about the gospel that he received: "For I did not receive it (the gospel) from man nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ."

Paul did not devise this. He was the most thoroughly educated in the Jewish faith, Hebrew of Hebrews, Pharisee of Pharisees, a man who immersed himself in the study of the word, and yet he did not devise this gospel. He did not figure it out, but it came by a revelation of Jesus

Christ to his heart. He needed that revelation to be able to really see what the true gospel was to all of mankind, and what is true in Paul's experience, I think must be true in our own experience.

Ephesians 1:15-17: Paul prayed for the believers in the church in Ephesus and said, "For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened."

It is so wonderful what Paul prays here, that the individuals and the church might have a spirit of wisdom and a spirit of revelation. How necessary it is for us. I am not saying that you do not have to do anything but just sit there and do nothing, and ask the Lord, "Well Lord, just reveal something to me." And you kind of thumb through your Bible and then look at a verse and think that the Lord might inspire you that way. I am not discouraging the thorough study of the Word and the reading of the Word. For in that very study and the reading of His Word or being in His presence through prayer or with the saints in fellowship, these are the very things that the Lord uses to bring revelation to us. I cannot tell you the number of times that I have been reading the Scriptures or I have been studying, usually taking a month to study one thing in the Scriptures whether it is a life or a book or whatever it is, breaking it down into its parts through hard study work, that at some point the Lord brings in the revelation of Himself, something is revealed of the truth of His Word that is just exciting to me. So it is so necessary for us to have this revelation given to us. Only by the Lord opening this door for us can we take that word and even though it is not really ours yet, when revelation comes and it is illuminated, it is a wonderful thing. You all have experienced it, you know what I am talking about.

I just delight in hearing the Lord's voice through His Word or through another brother and sister. But that is just the beginning of what the Lord really wants to do with that revelation, that word to you is that now we walk on the way of the Lord. Now we apply it to our lives and let the Lord bring conviction when necessary to bring it into reality so that it becomes, in a sense, flesh and blood. It becomes a reality in our own lives, and you can say, "Now I know that I know," and it becomes real to other people and they say, "Wow, you know, there is something different, there is something that he shared that reveals Christ to us, and it is a delight to our hearts. So it is all about this working out of that revelation into our hearts.

The Blessings Abraham Received

The second thing I want to touch on is that Abraham was blessed, much blessed in his life. At the very beginning, the first promise to him. One of the things that the Lord said, "I will bless you." It is interesting just to see some of the things that happened to Abraham. I am going to read a few verses that are all in Abraham's life.

Abraham was sixty years old; he had this calling that he obviously communicated to His father, to his nephew and his wife.

Genesis 12:1: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household, and go to a land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).

The word said, “leave your father household, leave your country, leave your family and go to the land that I will show you.” And the first thing that Abraham does is to take his father Terah with him, and they settle short of the land about 800 miles from Ur of the Chaldees into a place called Haran. It was not quite what the Lord wanted for him to do in his life. But the Lord was not put out necessarily by that. He was not wringing His hands and saying, “Oh no, I made the wrong choice; the man is a failure. He is not following My word.” Then we find in Abraham’s life this:

Genesis 12:5: “And Abraham took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions which he had gathered and the persons that he had gotten in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.”

So even in Haran, the Lord blessed Abraham and his family. Now keep in mind that in the Old Testament one of the signs of God’s blessing upon your life was material gain, material wealth, material well-being. Not so for us, but for them it was a significant sign that God was with them.

Abraham went to the land and then he slipped up again. Oh, no! He went into Egypt, and he had to half-way lie about who Sarai is.

Genesis 12:16: “And for her sake he dealt well with Abraham, and he had sheep, oxen, he asses, menservants, maidservants, she asses, and camels.”

Genesis 13:2: “Now Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and gold.”

So here are two mistakes that he makes, and yet the Lord just richly blesses him with material wealth that now he has become a very rich man, though still a tent dweller.

Again, Aram makes a mistake and goes into Gerar of Negiv, and he gave half truths about who Sarah is to probably protect his own life and Sarah’s life. The result of this is in:

Genesis 20:14: “Abimelech (king of Gerar) took sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves and gave them unto Abraham, and restored Sarah his wife to him.”

Again, blessing upon blessing, upon blessing was given to Abraham. When Abraham sent out his servant to go back to the land in Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac, the servant of the household of Abraham talked about who Abraham is and what he has. And the description begins in:

“Genesis 24:10: “Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master.”

Verse 22: “When the camels had done drinking the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels.”

Verse 35: “The servant of Abraham said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant, the Lord has greatly blessed my master. He has become great; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, men servants and maid servants, camels and asses.”

Abraham was a very wealthy man, very blessed by the Lord. All of these things came not by natural, human, or the natural ability of Abraham, but it was again God sovereignly blessing this

man who walked with him upon the earth, mistakes and all. And isn't that so true with us? Mistakes and all, the Lord blesses us. Not in material things, I wish maybe that was not so. Part of us would love to be able to have those material gains, but far more than the material, far more than the wealth of this world or all that the world offers us, the Lord has blessed us.

I just want to emphasize what the Lord has given to us. This has been made available to each and every one of us, not just to the overcomers, not just to the remnant, not just to those that are mature in the faith, but this is for all believers.

Colossians 2:1-3: "For I want you to know how great a conflict I have for you and for those at Laodicea, for all who have not seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery of Christ, in whom, are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Christ is ours and Christ lives inside of us.

All the riches are given, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ, and we can find them in our own lives.

Ephesians 1:3: "And blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

This is just to reemphasize that He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Oh, the riches that the Lord has bestowed upon His children, and as I said before, mistakes and all. Isn't it just a marvelous wonder that the times we blunder and misstep or we get ourselves dug into a hole someplace, whatever we have done, and then we come back to the Lord and look back, it has been turned into a blessing for us. We see something new of the Lord's heart for us, and something marvelous has been given to us even in our missteps.

Then there are times in when we are walking with the Lord, and He just blesses us, blessing upon blessing upon blessing given to us. Oh, we are so rich, as rich as Abraham was in material things and was able to shower his family with these material things. So we are rich in Christ, and it has been given to us. It is not only that we initially see this and cannot understand it with our minds, but we kind of fathom some of what it is. Then as we walk with the Lord, as Abraham walked in the way of the Lord, these riches are not way off in the heavens or in this Christ who sometimes seems to be so far away from us, but they become part of our lives. They become woven, weaved into the very fabric of our lives, and it is just a marvelous thing that the Lord has done for each and every believer. It is there; it is there for the taking.

Of course, the Scriptures tell us, and Jesus tells us quite often, seek and you shall find. Again I am not saying you should just sit there idly and think that it is all going to be yours. There is an element in which we seek for these things; seek and you shall find. The treasures that God has given to us are there to be found. So in all things, Paul uses this list of tribulation, distress, persecutions, famines, and so forth, that Christians have to go through in this world, and we are blessed. We are blessed in those times, and we are blessed by those times. Even by those hard and difficult times that we go through, the Lord blesses us, and we feel His blessing.

The Man of Faith

Finally, I just want to spend the last few minutes and look at Abraham's faith. Some of the commentators talk about these men in the Old Testament that are characterized by certain phrases. David, the man after God's own heart, Abraham is, of course, is always the man of faith. Faith is the characteristic found in this man. And of course, in Romans chapter 4, Paul says that this Abraham should not be a far off figure for any of us, that Abraham is the father of us all. He is a father to us, and so it would behoove us to nurture our understanding and our relationship with Abraham in what he had and what he did because he is the father of us all, if we have right faith as his, both Jew and Gentile. It was a faith that he had that grew. It was not that God gave him this miraculous faith, and that is what it was throughout his life. The next 115 years was just a life of overcoming faith. It was a life of growing day by day, experience by experience. Faith grew and his trust in the Lord grew, and the Lord revealed Himself in new and fresh ways to him until he came into a real maturity, a trust of who the Lord is and His relationship with the Lord.

I just want to name a few things in his life. He had the faith to leave his country, his kindred and his father's house when he first heard that word, this voice out of nowhere, this appearance out of nowhere, and he believed it. And after fifteen years, probably in Haran, he goes to the land. He had faith to allow Lot to select the better land, and so Lot took that which seemed to be second best, yet it was the land that was desirable, and it was God's choice for him. But he had the faith to let Lot make his selection. Lot does, and Abraham takes the rest, and it was God's choice for him.

He had faith to pursue the four kings that had invaded Sodom and Gomorrah and that area, and the five kings of that area, and Abraham, with a small group of men and his cohorts, the Amorites, went with him, and by faith he pursued the kings, and he defeated them in battle by faith, a small band defeating a large army.

He had faith when he encountered Melchizedek. I do not want to emphasize on Melchizedek himself. He himself is a marvel to look at and dwell on who this man is and what he said to Abraham, but the thing that really struck me about this encounter Abraham had with Melchizedek is in verses Genesis 14:22-24:

Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, maker of heaven and earth."

That is the very name that Melchizedek revealed to Abraham of who God is. It was the first time that Abraham had ever heard that name and realized that He was the Lord God Most High, maker of heaven and earth, and something happened in that transaction. In hearing that Abraham swears an oath to God. It was the first time that this had happened. Up to this time, God had spoken to Abraham, and Abraham believed the Lord and trusted the Lord in those promises. But it never says that Abraham ever talked with the Lord, that he had communicated with Him, had a living relationship of one on one with the Lord except right here when he is with Melchizedek. So he swears his oath to the king of Sodom and says, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High and have taken an oath that I would not take a thread or a sandal or anything that is yours lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich."

Abram learned to talk to the Lord. It is not a one way transaction, a one way relationship, but it is a two-way relationship that God wanted Abraham in a place where he would talk to God and they would develop this relationship. He had faith to believe the Lord and the next promise that He gave to him. And it says that God reckoned it to him as righteousness. He had faith so that God established an everlasting covenant with him. This is one of the times in which Abraham came into something brand-new with the Lord, and the Lord broke through to him.

It says in 17:7: “God says to Abraham, and I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout your generations for an everlasting covenant.”

What is the everlasting covenant? “It is to be God to you and to your descendants after you.” God sealed His relationship after many years and many experiences that Abraham went through. God finally said, “I am establishing that everlasting covenant to be your God. I will be your God.” Oh, the promises that were given to Abraham and the things that he came into.

In chapter 18:19: “Know I have chosen him.” The marginal translation says that I have known him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice.

I love Rotherham’s translation of that phrase, “I have chosen him.” He translates it, “for I have become His intimate friend.” Now we are intimate friends with one another. You see how this relationship is growing as Abraham’s faith is growing. He had faith when the Lord afflicted Abimelech and his household and closed all the wombs of the women in Gerar because of Abimelech taking Sarah unto himself. And the Lord said, “Now then restore the man’s wife for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you, and you shall live” (Genesis 20:7).

Then later on it says, “Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves. Then they bore children” (verse 17).

Now he has this place of authority, and it is translated blessings to others. He is a prophet now who can pray. He prays, the Lord listens, and the Lord responds.

Finally, there is the final test when God tested Abraham with Isaac, his son, and there is that final phrase that the angel uses when this takes place. Abraham goes through with this and takes his son up to Mount Moriah, and the Lord provides the ram. The angel says, “Do not lay your hand on the lad and do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God.” *Now I know that you fear God.* Towards the end of his life the Lord knows that truly Abraham fears the Lord. He was an intimate friend of the Lord, but it has come through this test that now He knows that he fears or worships the Lord. Abraham truly worshipped the Lord for who He is.

There are some phrases that are used in the New Testament about Abraham’s faith. One is in Romans 4: “He did not weaken in faith; no distress made him waver, but he grew strong in faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that He was able to do what He promised” (see verses 20-21).

Hebrews 11:19: “He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead.”

Hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. And so with us and faith. Initially, faith has been given to each one of us in one measure or another, when we first believed, but what the Lord is after as we see in Abraham's life, who is our example, is that he desires for that faith to grow through each experience and not waver. He believed on the Lord and the Lord's promises to him, and the Lord was faithful to His promises.

We are talking about Abraham, a man of the Old Testament, who did not have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in him. Now we look at ourselves and hear the promises that have been given to us, that the Spirit of Christ not only has come upon us but dwells within us. And the same benefits given to Abraham are given to us. So I just want to go through a short list of things that the Lord has promised to us and to examine our hearts. Do we really believe that these things are ours? Will we have the faith of Abraham to actually believe these things that God has promised to us?

Do We Believe the Promises of God

First, is the blood of Christ, the very beginning of our salvation, able to cleanse us from every sin, that there is no sin that is greater than the blood of Jesus Christ? How often we think how wretched, how bad are the things that I have done. They are such horrible things. No! The blood of Christ is greater than every sin that we commit.

Do we believe that on the cross of Christ we died with Him? That this old man we inherited from Adam was crucified on the cross with Christ? That this body of flesh that we live in, that we wrestle against, that we fight against has been put aside in God's eyes? And it is for us as we walk with the Lord, as Abraham walked with the Lord on the way of the Lord, to learn that when the flesh rears its ugly head in each of our lives, like it does almost every day, we come back to that truth. No, that is dead, it is gone, it no longer has the power to overtake me and overcome me. There is a new life in me. In this being crucified with Christ, we no longer have to try and do the will of God. So many Christians are still in that rut, that effort: "I just need to put a little bit more effort in my Bible study, in my prayer life, going to church and doing this and that, whatever it might be. If only I try a little bit harder, I will find that I am more spiritual, and the Lord is happier with me.

We need to come to the place in this truth about the cross of Christ in our lives, come to the place where as Watchman Nee says, "It is no longer a matter of petition. You are not asking the Lord to deal with your flesh any longer. You are not asking that this wretched man that I am, and the ruts that we get into, involved with that. That has all been taken care of; it is all dealt with. It is no longer a matter of petition and asking God to deal with my flesh, but it now becomes a matter of praise. "I praise You Lord that it has been accomplished on the cross and that we were in Christ on that cross, and we have been crucified. It is no longer I that lives, but Christ lives in me. It is the faith to believe that His resurrection life is now operating in me. It is not just that we put away the old man, and how wonderful that is, but now there is this new man that is operating within us. There is something that is, in fact, foreign to us in our flesh, our man after Adam, that has been put into us in Christ. There is this new man that now lives in me, this Person that I can draw upon, that I can find the sufficiency for rather than react to something that someone said meaningfully to me or whatever. I do not have to react out of the flesh any longer; there is something I can draw upon that says, "I can give grace into this situation; I can impart life into this situation."

It is Not on myself, not on my own intellect, my own ability, but there is something that is inside of me, and it is this new man in Christ through His resurrection life.

Finally, do we believe that we have really been brought into the eternal purpose of God? I have come to realize some of the things that I have been reading, and it has really dawned on me, that there is something that is beyond redemption which God has done. Every writer that writes about this is very careful. But I am not dismissing what redemption is for us, Christ dying on the cross, the blood and all that He has done for us, restored us and reconciled us to God, and all the things that have been given to us. I am not dismissing how great redemption is, but there is something even beyond redemption which God has done for us. God, in a sense, has with His people forgotten redemption. What He has done is, and now I am speaking not as individuals but again that corporate man that is in Christ which is unseen by the human eyes, but spiritually you know that He is there, that He has brought us back to God's original intent. What was intended for Adam, that he would eat from the tree of life, then redemption, the fall and recovery, we would skip over that and pick up that original intent that God had for His people. He now has this intimate friend. He now has, "Now I know that you fear God."

These are the ones that have been brought into this place, that now He has this corporate man that is truly formed into the image of His Son, and that is what it is all about. God is after the revelation of His Son, and He has brought humanity into it, men and women after Christ, brought into God's intent, into God's delight, God's heart, God's place of rest, and He has brought us into that. What a marvelous thing! It is even beyond redemption, even beyond what I feel, my emotions. We have been brought into something that is eternal in God's view of things. This new man that is there right now that many of you are part of that man, that we live as His sons, that we shall see the consummation of it. We shall be that bride of Christ, those that God is pleased to dwell in, that God's glory, God's very presence is there among men in the eternals, and God has brought us even into that. What marvelous things that God has brought us into. Do we have the faith to believe in all of these promises? Is this really true? Can we be like Abraham? Or will we believe our feelings? Will we believe what the world says? Will we believe what this old man, this old flesh says to us? This soul-life says to us? Will we believe what the enemy lies to us about and think that that is the truth? Or by faith, will we believe in the promises of God and trust them, walk in them and experience them?

So in conclusion I will just say, so like Abraham may we walk in the way of the Lord, may we learn the lessons that God has for us, to receive revelation from Him in the midst of our studies, in the midst of our prayer life, and in the midst of whatever we are doing. That God would reveal Himself to us, that our hearts would just long for Him, that we would have honest and good hearts before the Lord to say, "Lord, give me that revelation; speak to my heart." You get to the place in your walk with the Lord that you no longer fret when you are studying something and it is like, you are breaking up rocks, or you are having a root canal or something, and it is really difficult, and I am not getting anything out of this. But you do not fret about that anymore; you are not concerned because you have always seen the Lord come through for you, and He has given His life to you at a certain point, and all those ups and downs are no longer a real issue in your life, that we would just enter into and enjoy all the riches and treasures that we have in Christ Jesus that have been given to us. Then we are exercising and growing un faith and all these promises

of the Lord. So may our lives be characterized by these attributes, by these characteristics that were found in Abraham, the father of us all.

Let's commit our hearts to the Lord:

Father, all we can do is thank You, what great and marvelous promises that have been given to us in Christ Jesus, that far exceeds anything and everything that Abraham experienced in his life. Thank You, Lord, that You truly want to bring us into that place to be Your intimate friend. You want us to be Your intimate friend. You want to be our God; You want us, "Now I know that you fear the Lord." Oh, that we would come to that place where Your heart's delight is not only in our lives individually, but that the fruition of this corporate man that is vaguely out there, that we just hear about, but Lord, it shall be brought into fruition and to Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.