

## When Faith Seems Illogical

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-18; Romans 4:16-25

*By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type. (Hebrews 11:11-12, 17-19, NASB)*

Childlessness was considered a great curse. Thus the childlessness of Abraham and Sarah was savagely ironic. Not only had God promised to richly bless them, but He had specifically guaranteed that Abraham would be the father of a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3). It's impossible to be the father of a great nation without being the father of even one male heir.

Yet over the years, God continued to repeat the promise of these blessings, even as they seemed more and more impossible. The curse of childlessness continued, and Sarah aged beyond her child-bearing years.

Finally, when Abraham was one hundred and Sarah was ninety, the impossible happened: the heir was born. His birth was so filled with joy and stunned amazement that they named the boy "Isaac", a form of the Hebrew word for "laughter".

Imagine, then, Abraham's shock and sorrow when God came to him a few years later with an incomprehensible command:

*"Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." (Genesis 22:2, NASB)*

This was his only heir, so long-awaited. This was his dear and irreplaceable son. This was the key to God fulfilling all His promises and purposes for Abraham. Yet we're given no record of any gut-wrenching decision on Abraham's part. He simply obeyed, rising early the next morning to begin their journey. When Isaac asked why such a well-supplied sacrificial trip had no burnt offering, Abraham answered,

*"God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering." (Genesis 22:8, NASB)*

The Apostle Paul tells us more. He says that Abraham believed the God who “*gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist*” (Romans 4:17, NASB). “*He did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God has promised, He was able also to perform*” (Romans 4:20-21, NASB). For Abraham, not even death itself was a barrier to faith.

During all those decades bearing the curse of childlessness, God’s promises would have often seemed so very far away to Abraham. Did he have any anxious moments about them? Probably.

When the only thing between you and impossible need are the promises of God, will you have any anxious moments? Probably.

But the question is this: during those times, will you continue to trust Him and obey Him? When His promises seem unbelievable and His provision is nowhere in sight, will you continue to praise Him, love Him, rejoice in Him, and depend on Him? Will He continue to be your joy, your confidence, and your deep-settled peace?

When you face the impossible, when trusting God seems naïve and illogical, consider the obedient faith of Abraham.

*Father, You raise life from stone-cold death.  
Is there any reason I should ever doubt You,  
in anything big or small?*

Hymn: [Keep Us Strong in Faith](#)

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