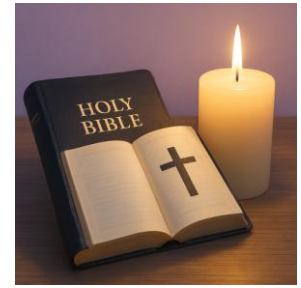




Look Up and Believe

Genesis 15:1–6



Big Idea:

God invites His people to trust His promises even when the timing is unclear, the evidence is lacking, and the silence feels long.

Why This Matters:

Most believers spend long seasons living in the space between what God has said and what they can see. Genesis 15 teaches us how to walk by faith in those “in-between” moments.

Context

Abram—later called Abraham—is one of the most significant figures in Scripture, but his story begins in ordinary circumstances. He lived in the ancient Near East among a mixture of tribal traditions, ancestral gods, and cultural expectations centered around land, family, and legacy. Yet Abram and his wife, Sarai, carried a deep ache: they had no children. In their culture, this was not only emotionally painful but socially devastating. A future without an heir meant instability, vulnerability, and the end of a family line.

Years earlier, in Genesis 12, God had broken into Abram’s life with a remarkable promise: *Leave your home, trust Me, and I will make you into a great nation.* Abram obeyed. He left everything familiar and stepped into an unknown future because he believed God’s word.

But obedience didn’t remove the tension of waiting. By the time we reach Genesis 15, years have passed. Abram is older. Sarai is still barren. They have traveled, survived famine, and walked through danger—yet the promise remains unfulfilled. It is against this backdrop of delay, disappointment, and quiet anxiety that God speaks to Abram again and meets him in his uncertainty.

Introduction

Genesis 15 captures a moment many believers recognize: the moment when waiting becomes difficult, when hope feels thin, and when fear begins to whisper louder than faith. Abram had trusted God, but time had tested that trust. He had stepped out in obedience, but he still carried deep questions. The promise God gave him—descendants, a future, a legacy—seemed no closer than before.

This passage resonates because we, too, often live between promise and fulfillment. We pray. We trust. We take steps of faith. Yet there are seasons when nothing seems to move. Silence stretches on. Circumstances appear unchanged. And we find ourselves wondering whether God has forgotten us or whether we misunderstood His voice.

Genesis 15 offers clarity for these moments. It reminds us that God sees our fear, hears our questions, and responds not with rebuke but with reassurance.

1. God Meets Us in Our Fear Before He Speaks to Our Future

The first words God speaks to Abram are tender and direct:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

Before addressing Abram’s longing for a child, God speaks to the condition of his heart. The delay had created fear—fear that time was running out, fear that hopes were misplaced, fear that the promise had expired. God responds not by explaining the delay but by grounding Abram in who God is.

God’s reassurance teaches us something essential: before God fulfills His promises, He strengthens our trust in His presence. He reminds us that He is our protector, provider, and ultimate treasure. Many believers want answers, timelines, or signs, but God often begins by restoring confidence in His character.

2. Faith Makes Room for Honest Questions

Abram responds with transparency:

“Sovereign Lord, what can You give me since I remain childless?”

This is not defiance—it is honesty. Abram holds the promise in one hand and his reality in the other, and the tension is painful. Scripture does not hide this struggle. Faith does not eliminate questions; it brings those questions directly to God. Abram’s authenticity models

a kind of faith that is neither shallow nor sentimental. He expresses his confusion, and God does not turn him away.

For believers, this is freeing. Faith is not pretending everything is fine. Faith is bringing disappointment to God rather than distancing ourselves from Him. God honors honest dialogue because it keeps us close to the One who can carry our uncertainty.

3. God Reaffirms His Promise When Our Confidence Wavers

God responds to Abram's fear with clarity:

“A son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

Nothing has changed in Abram's circumstances, but God's word reminds him that the silence is not abandonment. God has not altered the promise. The delays have not canceled His plans. Abram needed to hear that God still intended to do what He had said years earlier.

Often in our own waiting seasons, we need this same reassurance. God's promises do not expire. His purpose is not fragile. The delay may challenge us, but it does not weaken His word. When God speaks into Abram's discouragement, He anchors Abram's faith in divine reliability, not human probability.

4. Sometimes God Expands Our Vision Before He Fulfills Our Promise

God then leads Abram outside beneath the night sky and says:

“Look up at the sky and count the stars... So shall your offspring be.”

This moment is more than poetic—it is formative. God invites Abram to see the promise not through the lens of his limitations but through the lens of divine possibility. The stars serve as a visual reminder of God's limitless creativity and faithfulness.

There are moments when God calls us to “look up”—to step outside the confines of our worry, our assumptions, and our immediate circumstances. When we broaden our view of who God is, our capacity to trust Him grows. The God who calls galaxies into existence is not constrained by human boundaries.

5. True Faith Rests in God's Character, Not Visible Evidence

Genesis 15:6 offers one of the most important statements in Scripture:

“Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”

Abram did not receive a child that night. He did not gain new evidence. Nothing changed materially. What changed was Abram’s heart—he chose to trust God despite what he could see. This verse becomes foundational for the entire biblical understanding of faith.

Righteousness is not earned through performance; it is received through believing in the God who keeps His promises.

This truth speaks to anyone who feels caught between what God has said and what they are experiencing. Faith often means trusting God’s whisper over the volume of fear, uncertainty, or delay. Faith holds fast not because every question is answered, but because God’s character has proven trustworthy.

Conclusion

Genesis 15 invites us into Abram’s waiting room—a place familiar to many believers. It teaches us that God sees our questions, understands our fear, and speaks reassurance before resolution. It reminds us that God’s promises do not operate on our timetable and that His silence does not mean absence. And it challenges us to look up—beyond our limitations and toward the vastness of God’s faithfulness.

If you are living between promise and fulfillment today, God’s words to Abram are for you as well: *“Do not be afraid... I am your shield.”* The God who placed every star in the sky is the same God who holds your future with care, precision, and unwavering commitment. You can trust Him—even in the silence.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel caught between God’s promise and your present reality?
2. What fears or doubts have surfaced during your waiting season?
3. How might God be inviting you to “look up” and see His faithfulness from a larger perspective?
4. What does it look like for you to believe God’s character even when the evidence seems thin?