**UNCERTAIN: CERTAIN FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

**Did He Pinky Promise?**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**August 24: 2** Peter 1:4 NLT

And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.

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**August 25:** Hebrews 11:6 NLT

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

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**August 26:** Romans 10:9-10 NLT

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

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**August 27:** 1 Corinthians 1:9 AMP

God is faithful [He is reliable, trustworthy and ever true to His promise—He can be depended on], and through Him you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**August 28:** Romans 5:16-17 TPT

Don’t you realize that grace frees you to choose your own master? But choose carefully, for you surrender yourself to become a servant—bound to the one you choose to obey. If you choose to love sin, it will become your master, and it will own you and reward you with death. But if you choose to love and obey God, he will lead you into perfect righteousness.

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**Discussion Guide:**

1. We have all had moments when we cried out to God, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24 NLT) Share a time when you were struggling in your faith and tell how God answered your prayer. What seems to contribute to moments of unbelief?

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2. “Abram believed the Lord and He credited it to Him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). “Righteousness is that state of acceptance by God which comes from perfect obedience to the law.” (New Bible Commentary) Can you think of times when Abraham failed to exhibit perfect obedience to the law? How do works and faith differ and how do they function together?

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3. Read Galatians 3:6-14. How did God’s promise to Abraham point through the ages to Christ and even to us? What does it mean to you personally to be redeemed from the curse of the law?

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4. What can we learn through this passage (Genesis 15:1-21) about Abram’s communications with God that we can apply to our own prayer life?

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5. Give an example when you have experienced delay in the fulfillment of one of God’s promises to you. Use the following reasons “why answers may be delayed” to prompt you:

 a. Faith often grows as it waits on fulfillment

 b. Gods uses the delay to reveal and discipline us for our stagnation or laziness

 c. God encourages more fervent prayer through the waiting period

 d. Proverbs 13:12 (TPT) “When hope’s dream seems to drag on and on, the delay can be depressing. But when at last your dream comes true, life’s sweetness will satisfy your soul.”

 e. It causes greater dependence on God.

 f. So that God’s wisdom and power might be displayed in His perfect timing.

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6. Have you ever experienced a time when you believed God had revealed a promise to you that was very personal and impactful to you, but during the waiting for the fulfillment, you began to wonder if you had heard Him correctly? What was the promise, how long was the waiting, and what was the final conclusion?

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7. How do you discover God’s promises and how do you know if they are specifically for you?

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8. “For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding ‘Yes!’ And through Christ, our ‘Amen’ (which means ‘Yes’) ascends to God for his glory. (2 Corinthians 1:20) “We open our Bibles at a promise, we look up to God, and God says, ‘You can have all of that through Christ.’ Trusting Christ, we say, ‘Amen’ to God. God speaks through Christ, and we believe in Christ; Christ reaches down and faith stretches up, and every promise of God is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. In and through Him we appropriate and take them to ourselves and say, ‘Yes, Lord; I trust You.’ This is the believing yes.” (Believer’s Bible Commentary) What does this mean to you and how can you live this out, practically speaking?

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**Digging Deeper:**

Assurance (vv. 8-12). Abraham’s question was not a sign of unbelief but a request for a token of assurance. He was confident that God would give him the promised son, but the land was in the hands of ten pagan nations (vv.19-21). It was one thing for Abraham to own the land, but how would his descendants possess it so they could enjoy it?

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 What is described in verses 9-17 was known in that day as “cutting a covenant. “This solemn ritual involved the death of animals and the binding of people to a promise. The persons making the covenant would sacrifice several animals and divide the bodies, placing the halves opposite each other on the ground. Then the parties would walk between the pieces of the sacrifices in declaration that if they failed to keep their word, they deserved the same fate as the animals. (Jeremiah 34:18-19).

 But Abraham’s experience was different. He killed the animals, laid them on the ground, and spent the rest of the day fighting off the birds of prey that were attracted to the flesh and blood. When the sun went down, Abraham fell into a deep sleep, and then God appeared to Him and spoke to him. *But God alone passed between the parts of the sacrifices* (Gen. 15:17)! It was God who made promises to Abraham, not Abraham who made promises to God. There were no conditions attached; the covenant of grace came from the generous heart of God. **Be Obedient (Genesis 12-25) Learning the Secret of Living By Faith**

1. What is most significant to you today about the fact that God passed *alone* through the midst of the slain animals, while Abram was merely a spectator?

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1. How have you experienced God’s grace to fulfill His promises to you despite your failures, and how does He empower you to be faithful to Him?

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