

September 6/7, 2025

"Abraham"

Pastor Aaron Buer



## **SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.**

### **2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths**

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

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## **Day 1** [Genesis 12:1-4](#) | The Call

"The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." Genesis 12:1

Scripture opens with God weaving together a perfect, beautiful world. The world unravels quickly when humans rebel against God and sin enters the cosmos. Yet, God immediately promises not to leave his creation in despair ([Genesis 3:15](#)). His rescue plan launches when he asks Abraham to leave his home. He promises to make Abraham into a great nation that will bless the whole world. The God who calls gives clear directions. Still, the destination is far from certain. Abraham believes God, and with his wife, Sarah, he packs their belongings and sets off.

The God who called Abraham also calls us. Though we have clear directions in Scripture about how God desires us to live, there are many things in our lives that remain uncertain. The Bible does not tell us who we should marry or what job to take. It doesn't tell us how our kids will turn out. What Scripture reveals to us, though, is who God is and who we are as followers of Jesus. Being a Jesus follower involves trusting God with the destination and, in faith, stepping forward amid the uncertain. Throughout this sermon series, we will look at different characters from the story of the Old Testament. We'll explore what they reveal about God and what it means to be his people. We will see that God is consistent. He is trustworthy, full of unrelenting love and righteousness.

**TODAY:** Acknowledge one area of uncertainty where you need to trust God and follow him. Pray, "Heavenly Father, I feel uncertain about \_\_\_\_\_ in my life. Help me to trust you with this."

## **Day 2** [Genesis 12:2-3](#) | The Blessing

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

God's great rescue plan involves people. Through Abraham, God promises to grow a family that will be blessed. He tells Abraham that his family will turn into a great nation and will receive special land to live in. Through this nation, on this land, Abraham will bless the entire world. Abraham's blessing is for everyone! Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, is that blessing for the world, making a way to be restored to friendship with God. The God who blesses is zealous for his creation. He wants it back. He is charting a way through Abraham.

The God who blesses Abraham also invites us to bless others. Like Abraham, God gives us gifts that aren't only for our enjoyment but are meant for those around us. With our gifts, we can reach the world with the love of God. He calls us to be conduits of his goodness, revealing his love in our talents, time and possessions. All blessings point to the ultimate blessing—a restored friendship with God through Jesus. By faith, we accept the

invitation to be a part of God's restoration project in the world. He has included us to include others. He has rescued us so that others might find rescue.

**TODAY:** What blessings did God give you that you can use to bless others? Pick one and write down how you can be a blessing to others this week. The greatest blessing you can give is sharing your faith in Jesus. Join the [Sharing Your Faith workshop](#) on September 28.

## Day 3 [Hebrews 11:8-13](#) | Faith and Doubt

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Hebrews 11:8

Abraham grapples with uncertainty twenty-four years after leaving home. God promised to make Abraham into a great nation. That requires children and land, both of which this wandering nomad is still without. His doubts burst outward as he shares them with God. With compassion, God remains present with Abraham. With a tangible response, God shows Abraham that he is a faithful promise-keeper ([Genesis 15](#)). Later in the story of the Bible, the author of Hebrews names Abraham in what is often called the great "Hall of Faith." Despite his doubts, he steps forward, living in tents in a foreign land while waiting for a promised son. Abraham sees his son born, but dies a stranger in that land. He doesn't see all that God promised, but he sees enough.

Doubt comes with the territory of being a Jesus follower. In the garden of our hearts, it is an inevitable weed that sprouts. But doubt is not the opposite of faith. In fact, as fear is often a precursor to courage, doubt can lead to faith. The key is knowing what to do with doubt. Like Abraham, we must let God meet us in uncertainty. God knows we will struggle to believe and remain faithful. True faith is choosing to believe God despite doubt. Like Abraham, God calls us to step forward and obey.

**TODAY:** Sometimes the best fuel for faith amid doubt is to journey with other believers. Small groups are launching soon. Now is the perfect time to join one! Learn more or register here: [Join a Group](#).

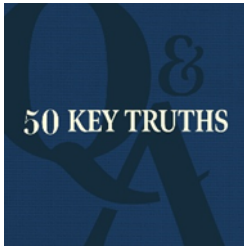
## Day 4 [Genesis 15](#) | The Covenant

"On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land.'" Genesis 15:18

God shatters Abraham's understanding of the world when he meets his doubt in a profound way. He asks Abraham to make a covenant. Abraham is familiar with this concept. A covenant is an agreement based on promises and commitments, usually involving a strong and a weak party. As the weaker one, Abraham understands that it is his role to walk through the torn animals to symbolize what happens if he breaks his commitment to God. He will die. Yet, something breathtaking occurs. Instead of Abraham, God walks the trail of blood and sinew. The God who keeps his promises tells Abraham that he will uphold both sides of the covenant. Abraham sees that God is zealous and willing to bear the consequences of sin to take his creation back.

Jesus shatters our understanding of the world. The rebellion of Adam is in our bones. We experience the story of humanity with every sin we commit. The consequence for our disobedience is death. But God's great rescue plan, which began with Abraham, finds its fulfillment in Jesus. God sent him to bear the consequences of our sin on the cross. Because of his great love, God's son died so we can experience a restored friendship with him.

**TODAY:** If you haven't done so already, put your trust in Jesus. Admit to God that sin has broken your relationship with him. Acknowledge your need for Jesus to forgive and restore. If you have already put your trust in Jesus, praise him for his faithfulness and join Ada Worship as they sing, "[Faithfulness](#)."



## Day 5 [Ephesians 5:15-20](#) | Question 35: Filled with the Spirit

**Question:** What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

**Answer:** Being filled with the Spirit means increasingly trusting and submitting to the Spirit's guidance in our lives.

**"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."** Ephesians 5:18

Paul writes to believers in Ephesus who understood the Spirit came to live in them the moment they trusted Christ for salvation ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#)). Yet, Paul's command to be "filled with the Spirit" indicates the Spirit's activity or influence over their lives could be depleted. Paul contrasts being controlled by wine with being controlled by the Spirit. Just as alcohol affects a person's judgment and actions, being filled with the Spirit means allowing the Spirit to influence and direct their lives increasingly. While the Spirit's presence was permanent, his control requires ongoing cooperation and submission.

Being filled with the Spirit means we walk in the Spirit. We trust him increasingly and submit to his promptings. We strive to pay attention to what the Spirit wants, and we obey. Our obedience fuels transformation. We gain momentum in our spiritual journey only as we submit to God's will and obey what he asks. But when we resist God's will or disobey, we are left to our own power to follow Christ, and the results are dismal. Change happens not as we work harder to follow rules, but as we open ourselves to the Spirit's movement. We pay attention to his guidance and follow his lead through the Word and his indwelling presence.

**TODAY:** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you've been resisting his guidance. Choose something specific to submit to his control today, trusting his power rather than your own strength to live for Christ.