

Sunday October 28 through Sunday November 4

- Pastor Robert continues his sermon series. He uses the scriptures to teach us about putting Faith in God's Promise.
- The Joys of Intercession study group will be meeting at 6:30 pm at the Parsonage.
- Trunk or Treat will begin Wednesday evening at 5. Please come early so you can get parked and set up. The road will be closed off with cones from the town.
- Prayer Team will be meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to come pray and add their concerns. Prayer does make a difference!!
- Susana Wesley/Wesleyan Circles will be meeting Thursday morning at 11.
- Pastor Robert's sermon will concentrate on loving our neighbor.



Sunday October 28

- 10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
- 4:45 pm—Van leaving for Festival of Gifts and Talents in Gate City.
- 5:00 pm—UMYF canceled

Monday October 29

- 6:30 pm—The Joys of Intercession at the Parsonage
- 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday October 30

- 7:00 pm—Girl Scouts

Wednesday October 31

- 5:00 pm—Trunk or Treat
- 6:00 pm—Prayer Team
- 7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday November 1

- 11:00 am—Susana Wesley/Wesleyan Circles

Friday November 2

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday November 3

No Scheduled Activities

Sunday November 4

- 10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship



Faith Puts God's Promise to the Test
Genesis 12:10-20

The message of Grace says that what we experience as a curse or evil, God will bless and make Holy as God is Holy. God reveals such grace through Christ on the Cross and the Empty Tomb. Grace transforms sin and death into New-Life. We participate in this New -Life as we journey from faith to faith. Abraham is the Father of Faith. Today, we read about Abram's journey from the Promises to encounter the "place of ruins."

God promised to bless Abram. God promised to bless those who blessed Abram, and to curse those who cursed Abram. Notice that God does not say that He will curse Abram when he curses his neighbor.

If you read God's promise for yourself the "you" God Promises to Bless is the one doing the reading. Accepting this opens the door to live by faith. How do we have Faith that God will bless us? Each time you and I find ourselves in "the place of ruins" turn from fear to faith that God desires to bless you with Promised New -Life. Faith reflects God's revelation through Jesus Christ. To reflect Christ, you and I must take up our cross. To take up our cross means you and I will turn from fear to face our Sin. Sin is any experience of shame, guilt, or blame. These feelings are NOT God's Way. Therefore, you and I face our fear by faith in the power of Jesus' Name. Notice that faith is an exchange of power. We exchange our power to fix, change, or heal things for ourselves to Faith which is trust in Jesus' power. His power is experienced as **Suffering** that **Dies** and **Rises** with **New-Life**. Our faith is in the power of God's Grace revealed on the Cross where Jesus Suffers all Sin. Our faith is in the power of God's grace revealed in the Empty Tomb. Our faith is in the power of the Victory of Resurrected Life. Get this straight: Jesus rose again and walked this earth for 40 days. 40 days signifies DELIVERANCE. Only then did he ascend into Heaven. Faithful Disciples live New-Life through the Power of the Resurrection as we wait to be fully transformed and ascend into Heaven.

Grace is a free gift. Grace has the power to transform a curse into a blessing. Grace comes from God. Therefore, we must learn to expect the Blessing from God, not from our neighbor or from our good deeds. Think this through and you will discover the meaning of Faith. Abram's faith was in God. Well, at least some of the time. The other times he journeyed on to one "dry place after another."

Abram shows us that faithful people face the same trials as faithless people. Yes, just look at Abram. One minute he is standing on the Promises of God. The next minute Abram is faced with a famine. Duh! The name Negeb means "the dry place." Would we name an all you can eat restaurant the "Dry Place?" Abram left the Promise to journey on to "the dry place." It is what we do. One minute we are Standing on the Promise, thinking I got this! Then, after a while we are surrounded again by ruins.

Have you ever faced a "dry place" in your walk with God? A "dry place" is like living in Ai, the place of ruins. A famine is no joke. It set Abram on course for suffering that led him into the "place of ruins."

The Good News is that God's will for our lives is to transform Ai's cursed ruins into a place of blessing. The key lies in desiring to be in God's presence more that obtaining camels, goats, and sheep. Abram left Egypt a wealthy man. Pharaoh gave Abram the livestock to get him out of his sight. Did he ever understand the price Sari and Lot paid for him to have a herd of sheep, goats, and camels?

Why did Abram tell Sari to say, "I am Abram's sister?"

Do you think Sari felt blessed by Abram?

Did Abram ask Sari to lie?

What were the plagues about?

How did Pharaoh learn that Sari was Abram's wife?