

**Date:** May 25, 2025

**Speaker:** Pastor Tim McCardel

**Message:** The Benefit of Doubt: How God Uses Doubt to Change Our Lives

**Abraham:** A Study of Faith and Failure

Romans 4:17-22

### 1. What Does It Mean To Believe God?

1) To know that reality is greater than how we feel or how things appear.

**Abraham faced the fact:** “his own body, which was as good as dead”, but God had promised him children (Genesis 12:2,7), yet he still had none.

2 Corinthians 5:7

**Reality:** Faith is not opposed to reason but is often opposed to feelings & appearances.

- Faith begins with a “death to self trust” - a going on despite our weakness, feelings or perceptions.

Philippians 4:19

2) **To Believe God:** To focus on facts about God

Romans 4:20,21

- **Faith is Not:** the absence of thinking but rather a profound insistence on living out a strong, deep reflection of who God is and not just reacting to circumstances.

Romans 4:17

- We today—have so much more to go on than Abraham did as we Deeply Consider Who God Is and what He can DO!

3) To Trust the bare Word of God

Romans 4:21

- Believing God is not just thinking about God but trusting His Word even when there is nothing else to go on.

### 2. How To Strengthen Our Faith

1) Move Closer To God: study, meditate, reflect

Psalm 1:1-3

Joshua 1:8

James 4:6-8

2 Timothy 2:13

John 1:16

**Truth:** Grace is not only the doorway to Christ, it is the whole lifelong pathway to a close relationship with Jesus.

2) Act on God’s promises and His Word— even when so hared

**Monthly Promises:** Ephesians 3:20                      Genesis 50:20

- Abraham’s walk with God shows us what a life of faith looks like.

Romans 5:20

**The Life of Faith** is far from a perfect life—but it clings to what God promises to do—and sees struggles, joys and failures as a way of getting closer to our loving Lord, who makes and Keeps His Promises.

## Encouraging Scriptures for Days of Doubt:

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

Psalm 34:17

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 48:1

Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you take me into glory... But as for me, it is good to be near God.

Psalm 73:23-24, 28

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 103:13-14

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 145:18-19

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth, He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and save them.

Psalm 145:18-19

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

There is a time for everything... a time to tear down and a time to build.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3