



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

*The Kind of Faith Abraham had... by Billy*

### READ GENESIS 15: 1-8

- **A**bram felt very vulnerable as an alien in Canaan, not having a place to call his own and he experienced other insecurities as we shall soon see.
- The dread of what lies ahead can stifle our progress because we wonder how we can survive the enemy's attack, or even a trial from the Lord.
- Many will protest that it is hard to stop feeling afraid even when we know we should obey the command to "fear not" (Isa.43:1-3). The answer is to lift up the shield of faith, even faith the size of a mustard seed.
- Once we begin to take God at His word the whole atmosphere changes. We are reminded in Hebrews 11:6 that he that comes to God must believe that He is and that "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."
- Abram is living this life of faith and is receiving assurance from God that he will be shielded and rewarded. There is however a deep insecurity within the heart of Abram – he does not have a son to be his heir.
- For him, this is a heavy burden to carry as this was seen in the culture of the day to be almost a shameful reality. In v.4 God confirms His promise and clarifies any misconception- the heir will be his own offspring not somebody else's.
- Abram is directed to look at the stars and to count their number just as the prophet Ezekiel was asked to consider the valley of dry bones – a visual representation of reality.
- The incalculable number is equal to the number of his descendants. This is a pivotal moment in the life of Abram and in the revelation of God's redemption. It centres on the whole issue of faith as that which is pleasing to God.
- Abram is set forth as a pattern of one who is in right relationship to God on the basis of faith. "And he believed in the Lord and He counted to him for righteousness." v.6
- The importance of this revelation is confirmed by the many references to it in the New Testament. "And being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform there it was also credited to him as righteousness." (Rom.4:21-22).
- Abram was faced with the impossibilities but he chose to believe the promise.
- For every believer since the temporal circumstance mocks our faith. Where is the promise of His coming again? How can these dead bones live? There is no help for you in God.
- Faith believes ■ and receives the promise that whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.



## WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 02

### Events /Notices

- ▶ **Sunday meeting** begins @ 10.00am and there will be a short break around 12 noon before we continue in prayer and fasting until around 3pm
- ▶ **Anyone who would like to volunteer** as a Sunday School teacher is welcome to join in the planning meeting which will follow immediately after the morning meeting.
- ▶ **Next basic Christianity Bible study** will take place on *Friday 25th January @ 8pm*
- ▶ **Week of prayer** begins *Sunday 27th January* at 7pm and will continue each night up to *Wednesday 30th*
- ▶ **Advance notice** that we are planning a church weekend in Castledaly Manor on *Friday 26th April* to *Sunday 28th April* which is the weekend immediately after Easter

### Extra Services

*If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:*

#### ▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

#### ▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

*Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (Psalm 34:11)*

#### ▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).