Living By Faith (Lesson Five) – Taking the Limits off of a Limitless God

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Introduction: What is your opinion of what God can or can’t do? Do you see God as limited or limitless? Now, what do you see God doing in your life? If you don’t see Him doing “It” in your life, is it because you believe He can’t or you believe He won’t?

If you believe He won’t, why do you believe that?
Who told you He won’t?
What limits have you placed on God?
How have you allowed the experiences of your past, or the testimonies of others to shape your expectation of what God will or will not do for you?

Webster Definitions:
Limit: Something that bounds, restrains, or confines; the utmost extent.
Limitless: Boundless; without constraint.

Abraham – The Father of Faith

(Deuteronomy 2:9 CEV) The Lord said, “Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.”

➢ All we know about Abram at this point is that he was a 75 yr. old man living in Haran, without any children.
➢ The people of Haran were known for being idol worshippers and praying to many gods.
➢ God selected a 75 yr. old barren man in a spiritually and morally corrupt environment to start a legacy that still lives on today.
➢ Key: God is in the business of making holy garments out of flawed material.

➢ Limit to take off: Who am I, that God would use me?
➢ Limit to take off: I am too old.

➢ If you are still breathing, then God can still use you!

What did God promise?
Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you.
I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation:

➢ One of the key contributors to your belief system is your environment.
➢ God knew that He needed to get Abram out of his environment if he was to become the man He needed him to be.
➢ You have to be willing to place yourself in the right environment to feed your faith and starve your doubts.

➢ Key: Sometimes you have to LET GO to be able to LAY HOLD.
➢ Limit to take off: I’ve always done it this way.

If you want something you have never had, you might have to do something you have never done.

The Just (uncompromising righteous) Shall Live By His Faith! (Hab 2:4 AMP)
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- **Limit to take off:** I don’t have all the answers.
  - In the world people say, “I will believe it when I see it. But in God you often have to say, “I will see it, because I believe it!”

You will become famous and be a blessing to others:
- **Can God trust you enough to Bless you?**
  - Are you humble enough – can you control pride enough – to say, “Lord, glorify me, so that I can glorify thee?” (See John 17:4,5).
  - **Key:** You have to be **Blessed**, to be able to be a **Blessing**.
    - You cannot give what you do not have.
    - You cannot teach what you do not know.
    - You cannot lead where you have not been.

- **Limit to take off:** Pride.
  - You have to be able to control your confidence.
  - It’s not just about you, it’s about what God wants to do through you!
  - It’s bigger than you!

- **Limit to take off:** False humility.
  - All I want is enough for me and my four.
  - Oh, Lord, I am just a dirty no good rotten sinner.
  - Oh, God couldn’t use me.
  - Abraham had to say, “Yes, God can and will use me – for His Glory!”
  - But he had to do in **sincere humility**.

I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you:
- For a 75 yr. old man to take his family and head out into the middle of the desert is a major thing.
- The desert can be an unforgiving place.
- But God promised favor and protection.
- **Key:** The **will** of **God** will never take you where the **Grace** of **God** cannot keep you.
  - If it’s His will, then it’s His bill.
  - Where He leads, He feeds.
  - Where He guides, He provides.

- **Limit to take off:** Lack Mentality.
  - You must overcome the fear of not having enough!
  - If God gives you the vision, then He is obligated to release the Provision.

Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you:
- Let’s think about this for a minute.
- God promised that every single human being on the planet was going to be blessed because of Abraham. Every last one!
- **Key:** There are **NO LIMITS** in God.
  - When you start to say YES to God, then get ready for Him to do more than you can ever imagine.

- **Limit to take off:** Small thinking.
  - Many start off with saying, “Lord, are you sure?”
  - Why, Lord, do you want to do great things through me?
  - And God says, “Why not you?”
  - I made you and I put greatness down in you!
  - You must force yourself to line up your opinion of you with God’s opinion of you!
The Just (uncompromising righteous) Shall Live By His Faith! (Hab 2:4 AMP)

(Gen 12:7 CEV) But the Lord appeared to Abram and promised, "I will give this land to your family forever." Abram then built an altar there for the Lord.

- Abram had an encounter with God and he mustered up the faith required to leave everything he knew behind, because he now believed that a God he could not see was going to lead him to a place he did not know.
- Abram went as far as the sacred tree of Moreh in a place called Shechem.
- The Canaanites were still living in the land at that time, but Lord appeared to Abram and promised, "I will give this land to your family forever."
- Abram must have thought, “What should I do for God? What can I do for my God?”
- So right there, in the land of Canaan, a man from a land of many gods and a people that worshipped idols, built and altar to the Lord.
- What was he doing? He was solidifying his resolve to worship only one God and expressing outwardly what he was feeling inwardly.

**Key:** Worship is creation’s proper response to the creator.

- Abram did not know what else to do.
- No one had to lead him to worship.
- He had no praise team.
- No choir.
- He expressed outwardly what he felt inwardly.

**Limit to take off:** Embarrassment about praise and worship.

- When you worship you open yourself up to new levels in God.
- Don’t let your fear of man – and their opinion – to keep you from worshipping your God.

(Gen 12:13 CEV) "Please save my life by saying that you are my sister."

- Abram led his group of people to Egypt and decided to live there for a while. At this stage Abram was attempting to walk by faith, but he was still relatively new to God and since he was the “Father of Faith,” he had no point of reference.
- He did not have a Bible to read or a preaching tape to listen to.
- He was blazing a new trail and still not completely confident in his unseen God.
- Just before they got to Egypt Abram looked at his wife and said, "Sarai, you are really beautiful!" That is very nice to say and it would have been even nicer if he stopped there, but he went on to say, "When the Egyptians see how lovely you are, they will murder me because I am your husband. But they won’t kill you. Please save my life by saying that you are my sister."

**Key:** Fear moves satan. Faith moves God.

- He considered what he knew about the Egyptians and he considered his wife’s beauty.
- What he did not consider was what God said!
- Concentrating on the wrong things will cause you to express confidence in the wrong thing.

**Limit to take off:** Regret.

- Abram made a major mistake here, but he recovered from it.
- God forgave him, but he had to learn to forgive himself.
- Don’t allow regret to keep you from moving forward.
- God does not expect you to be perfect.
- If you make a mistake, repent, receive forgiveness, forgive yourself, and move forward by faith.
(Gen 13:15 CEV) I will give you and your family all the land you can see. It will be theirs forever!

- Think about this for a moment.
- God told Abram that He would give him all the land he could “see.”
- I don’t believe this was limited to physical sight.
- Although Israel is one of the smallest nations on the planet (only about 8,000 square miles), I do not believe Abram was physically able to see that far.
- This was a matter of his belief system.
- What was Abram willing to believe God for?
- Remember, we started off this series with the words of Jesus in Mark 9:23 where he said, “As far as possibilities go, everything is possible for the person who believes.”
- There are no impossibilities in God, but our ability to tap into God’s ability is limited by what we are able to believe.

God went on to say, “I will give you more descendants than there are specks of dust on the earth, and someday it will be easier to count the specks of dust than to count your descendants.”

- What was God doing?
- God was expanding his capacity to believe.
- God was helping him remove his preconceived limits!
- God was giving Abram a mental picture of abundance.
- He was explaining a supernatural blessing in a natural way.
- After getting Abram to “think big,” God said, “Now walk back and forth across the land, because I am giving it to you.”
- There he was, walking around, seeing beyond where he eyes could look. That is the power of belief!
- That’s the power of taking your limits off of a limitless God.
- That’s how the power of God can be released through man.
- **Key**: If you can believe, you can receive:
  - God is limitless. There is nothing God cannot do.
  - However, most Christians put limits on a limitless God and then attribute their inability to receive to God by making statements like, “Well, this must be God’s will.”
  - **No, God’s Word is God’s will.** Stop putting limits on a limitless God, search God’s Word, expand your capacity to believe, and you will see God do great things in your life.
- **Key**: You must be able to see beyond your sight.
  - This is where Vision comes in.
  - What do you “see” yourself doing this year?
  - What do you “see” yourself doing in life?
  - Look at your life through the lens of faith.

- **Limit to take off**: Unbelief.
  - It seems unbelievable that a 75 yr. old man and a 65 yr. old woman would give birth to a nation and bless the entire planet, but that’s what God did.
  - Use this as a Point-Of-Reference to get you past your unbelief.
(Romans 4:18) Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

- Naturally speaking, there was no hope for his situation. A 99yr. old man should not be able to have a baby with a 90 yr. old woman, especially when the woman had been barren all her life.
- **Key**: One Word from God can turn any hopeless situation around.
- **Limit to take off**: Hopelessness!

(v.19) And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

- **This is where we needed to get to.**
- **Why was his faith strong?** Because he chose to “Consider Not.”
- His body and Sarah’s womb were “considered dead” by the average person.
- **Abraham simply chose not to consider logic, reason, or sense realm evidence.**
- Just because something gets your attention, it does not mean that you have to give it your attention.
- **Key**: Never factor in what God has already factored out.
- **Limit to take off**: Logic, reason, or common sense!

(v.20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

- Because Abraham had the ability to “Consider Not,” then the Bible says that he was able to “Stagger not.”
- It the enemy can get you to waiver or to doubt, then he has gotten you out of faith.
- James said, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” (James 1:5-7).
- The 7th verse explains that the person who wavers (doubts) will not receive from God.
- Your faith must be focused.
- **Paul says that Abraham was strong in faith, because he considered not.**

- **Key**: You will be able to Stagger Not, if you Consider Not.
- **Limit to take off**: Dwelling on the problem and not the Promise.

(v.21) And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

- In other words, Abraham was completely convinced.
- **In 2009 we must be COMPLETELY CONVINCED!**
- **Get Ready for NO LIMIT LIVING!**

**Closing Confession**: Father God, You are the God of no limits. I no longer limit Your work in my life by my inability to believe. You enable me to dream big dreams and You empower me to bring them to pass. I am excited about what You are going to show me and more importantly, about what You are going to DO through me, for Your Glory! There are many things that You want to do in the earth that are not logical, rational, or even reasonable. I declare, by faith, that I have the capacity to believe whatever You want to do in and through me. All things are possible to him that believes and I declare that I am a believer, not a doubter. I don’t need to see to believe. I can believe to see. I walk by faith and not by sight! In Jesus’ name. Amen!