

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
January 1, 1984

His Personal Traits

Lesson No.1

The Phlegmatic Person  
Genesis 12:1-5



Abraham

- The Weaknesses of Abraham
- The Strengths of Abraham

Key Verse: Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise.

**I**ntroduction: The Phlegmatic people are the easiest people to get along with in life. Their calm, easygoing nature makes them well liked by others. Their clever wit and dry humor makes them a joy to have around.

- Usually such “*a good person*” they act more like a Christian before their salvation
- Many are teachers, doctors, scientist, comedians, magazine and book editors

STRENGTHS: Dependable, Witty, Friendly, Humorous, Efficient, Easy Going, Analytical

- Can be depended upon to fulfill their obligations and time schedules
- A good listener and does not blurt out their advise, but gives thoughtful counsel
- A very faithful friend and one that rarely proves disloyal
- Works well under pressure and their work is marked by neatness and efficiency
- Their neat desktop in the midst of a great project is a source of amazement

WEAKNESSES: Slow to Respond, Very Fearful, Very Stingy, Selfish, Stubborn

- A spectator in life with an inclination to do as little as possible
- Resents being stimulated to action against their will
- Frequently finds themselves in stubborn opposition of change of any kind
- Can use wit to get others stirred up and angry, while staying cool themselves
- Tendency of being stingy and selfish: What will it cost? What will it take from me?
- Vacillates between wanting to do something and not wanting to pay the price

Abraham the Phlegmatic Person:

1. Slow to Respond: **Genesis 12:1** “*Now the Lord had said unto Abram*”
2. Very Fearful: **Genesis 12:10** Lot his “*security blanket*” Fear led to compromise
3. Peacemaker: **Genesis 13:5-11** Abraham settles a dispute between herdsmen
4. Dependable: **Genesis 14:14-16** Abraham fighting to rescue Lot
5. Passive: **Genesis 16:1-3** Abraham submits his authority of headship to Sarah

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
January 8, 1984

The Testimony of Abraham

Lesson No.2

The Call of Abram  
Genesis 12:1-4



Abraham

- A Call of Urgency
- A Call of Faith
- A Call of Promise

**I**ntroduction: The Bible features many different characters and reveals something of importance about their life. It is interesting that history has been shaped by the events of some Bible characters and we can learn from their experiences: Things to appreciate and things to avoid. A list of these Bible characters are as follows: David, Job and Isaac.

The world conditions between Adam to Noah and from the time of Noah to Abram as an example. There was worldwide rebellion toward God. [Genesis 6:5; 11:19](#)

The Tower of Babel: "*gate of God*" The Tower of Babel was built in defiance toward God verse 4

- To be protected from another flood, even though, God had said in His covenant that he would not destroy the world again by water. [Genesis 9:15-17](#)
- To reach Heaven's gate.
- To make a name: it is interesting that each brick was inscribed with the name of a person.
- To keep the population from being scattered throughout the earth. [Genesis 9:1](#)

1. A Call of Urgency: "*get thee out*" [Genesis 19:14](#) "*up, get you out of this place*"  
The call to Abram was urgent because of the caller. It was God calling him!

- It was a call to leave family: Terah worshipped the heathen god "Nanah" (the moon god)
- It was a call to leave country: This was a call to forsake the sin of his people

A Parallel of the Christians: So often, the believer's response to the Gospel is that they are forced to leave those who are very dear to us. [Luke 15:26](#) the comparative love for Christ and Parents.

2. A Call of Faith: Abraham is called "*a friend of God*" [James 2:23](#)

- It was a call that involved complete trust in God. [Hebrews 11:8](#)
- Abram is called the father of the faithful. [Genesis 15:5](#) and [Galatians 3:19](#)

3. A Call of Promise: Faith and Obedience are not without Promise. [Genesis 12:23](#)

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
January 15, 1984

Abram Impatient in his Faith

Lesson No.3

The Faith of Abram  
Genesis 15:1-6



Abraham

- Impatient Faith
- Impetuous Faith
- Improved Faith

Key Verse: Genesis 15:6 and he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Introduction: the Faith of Abraham is a commendable Faith. The New Testament speaks commendably of Abraham's faith. Abram's commendable faith was not without failure, he experienced an Impatient Faith.

- **Galatians 3:19**: Father of the Faithful
- **James 2:23**: A Friend of God
- **Hebrews 11:8**: He Trusted God
- **Romans 4:20**: He staggered not at the Promise

1. Impatient Defined: Patience *"steadfast despite opposition, difficulty or adversity"*

- The Complaint of Abram: *"thou hast not given me"*
- The Occasion: **Genesis 14:14-24** *"after these things"*

The want of a child possessed Abram. Had this notion come from his reflection of God's Promise, we could possibly understand; however, it came from the following reasons:

- Pressure from outside, criticism from those around suggesting what he should have.
- Wanting an heir to his wealth. Abram was a wealthy man and it seemed reasonable that he would want a male-child to carry on his name.
- Because time was running out: *"I go childless" "I am going childless"* Age was creeping up on Abram. The timeline of Abram:
  - 70 years old at the time God called him
  - 75 years old when he left Haran
  - 85 years old when Abram took Hagar to be his wife

Important principles related to genuine faith in God.

- Faith undisturbed is the means to receiving blessings from God.
- Time lapse is allowed in order to produce Patience in our lives.

The Faith of Abram  
Genesis 16:1-6



Abraham

**T**he Occasion: See the timeline of Abram: Genesis 15 Abram was 80 years old, five years later he is 85 years of age. The age of Abram and his wife, Sarah is significant and reflects the effects of growing old. Sarah was 10 years younger than Abram and had not given him any children.

The want of a child consumed both Abram and Sarah. Human reasoning takes over and the result of poor judgment on the part of two anxious people has lasting consequences. The actions of Abram and Sarah represented two major covenants, which describe the inner-personal conflict that occurs in every person's life.

**Galatians 4:21-31** the Apostle Paul described what Abram and Sarah did as an Allegory "*a type to teach by*"

- A Covenant of the Flesh (works)
- A Covenant of Faith (promise)

2. Impetuous Defined: "*marked by Impulsiveness*"

A. Sarah: "*the match-maker*" The character of Sarah:

- Sarah was a beautiful physical attraction. **Genesis 12:10-15** "*very fair*"
- Sarah was a woman who ruled her household and usurped authority over her husband when she suggested that Hagar become Abram's second wife or mistress. **Genesis 16:2**

B. Hagar: "*the handmaiden*"

It was not uncommon among the rich of their day to have slave-girls for the purpose of bearing children for the family. It was an accepted practice. Nevertheless, it violated the Laws of God. Abram and Sarah's committed a serious violation of "*divine law*"

Abram Impetuous in his Faith

- Abram hearkened unto the voice of his wife. **Genesis 16:3** just as Adam did in **Genesis 3:17**
- Sarah's "*match-making*" of Abram with Hagar resulted in the birth of Ishmael Lit. "*God hears*"
- Ishmael and Isaac is also an Allegory "*a type to teach by*" for they represent a conflict between two nations in the middle-east – the Palestinians and Israelis.

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
January 29, 1984

Abraham Improved in His Faith

Lesson No.5

The Faith of Abram  
Genesis 21:1-8



Abraham

- The Laugh of Abraham
- The Laugh of Sarah
- The Laugh of Ishmael

**I**ntroduction: At the age of 99 Abram's faith has now been tried to the fullest. God's Power is manifested only when we recognize how powerless we are without him. **Deuteronomy 32:36**

The significance of the fulfilled promise: **Genesis 17:1-22** the birth of Isaac was God's promise to Abram and Sarai. Abram was 99 years old and far stricken in age. This was a golden opportunity for the power of God to be magnified in him. God addresses Himself to Abram in specific terms: El Shaddai "*I am the Almighty God*" or "*I am God all sufficient*"

The significance of the change in names: Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah. The English translation of the Old Testament names includes the letter "h" From Abram to Abraham which means "*exalted father*" or "*father of a multitude*" verse 5 From Sarai to Sarah which means "*princess*" or "*princess of many nations*" verse 15 The Improve faith of Abraham brings laughter in his heart because of the birth of Isaac which means "*laughter*"

1. The Laugh of Abraham: His laughter came only after he was willing to look back at those times in which he failed in his faith toward God, when his faith was impatient and impetuous. God never rewards unbelief. **Hebrews 11:6**

2. The Laugh of Sarah: It was a laugh of doubt and mistrust. **Genesis 18:1-15**

The laugh of Sarah was an outward expression of denying her sin; acting as a "*match-maker*" for Abram and Hagar. She took a light-hearted approach to sin. **Proverbs 28:13** he that covers his/her sins shall not prosper, but who confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.

The laugh of Sarah at the birth of Isaac was a response to the mercy of God. Sarah's laughter has now been turned into a laugh of great joy and happiness, just like her husband Abraham. **Genesis 21:1-6**

3. The Laugh of Ishmael: The occasion was when Isaac was between 3-5 years of age "*the same day that Isaac was weaned*" Sarah saw Ishmael mocking "*a laugh of mocking*" **Genesis 21:9-12**

The significance of casting out of Hagar and Ishmael has important implications: It was to make room for Isaac to inherit the promises of God. It speaks prophetically of Egypt's persecution of the Israelites. **Galatians 4:29** It speaks of God casting out that which is of the flesh; "*that no flesh should glory in His presence*" **1Corinthians 1:29**

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
February 19, 1984

God's Covenant Blessings

Lesson No.6

The Promise of Abraham  
Genesis 15:1-18



Abraham

- The People
- The Land

**I**ntroduction: Our lesson today centers around the Promise to Abraham; more specifically “a covenant making between God” and Abraham or “the cutting of a covenant”

When we speak about a Covenant in the modern world, we think in terms of an Agreement or a Contract. There are various forms of contracts or agreements: personal, marital, political and financial just to name a few.

Although the Bible speaks of these kinds of covenant, the covenants of the Bible can be placed usually into two categories: first, those that are **CONDITIONAL** and second those that are **UNCONDITIONAL**

- A Conditional Covenant is God's blessings based upon human responsibility
- An Unconditional Covenant is God's blessings apart from human responsibility.

The Abrahamic Covenant: Support reference. [Listen](#) – 6:00 minutes (gotquestions.org)

- Preparation of the Covenant: **Genesis 15:9-11** "cutting of a Covenant" and "consummating the Covenant"
  - Presentation of the Covenant: **Genesis 15:12-14** the Covenant was to Abraham and his seed.
1. The Covenant involved People: The characteristics of the covenant between God and Israel.
    - They shall be a suffering people 400 years in Egypt. **Exodus 12:40-42**
    - They shall be strangers in a foreign land
    - They shall be slaves in the land. **Exodus 1:13**
  2. The Covenant Involved Land: The implications of the covenant between God and His people.
    - The Covenant is similar to our New Covenant in Jesus Christ. Unconditional **Hebrew 8:6-8**
    - The Covenant is similar in obtaining things from God. *“it is by faith”*
    - The Covenant is similar in that a homeland is provided. When we leave this earth, *“heaven will become our home”*