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A Sure Thing

Romans 4:18-21

What is really sure in life?

Last fall I was rolling along. Doing my 30 minute jog on the treadmill. Went to the bathroom afterwards to discover blood in my urine. Thus began a 2-month trek to find out what was going on. All sorts of tests.

I remember praying by the bed of my 8-month-old nephew Nathan when they discovered he had hydrocephala. His mental development and his ability to walk would be impaired. God didn't work a miracle he worked a miracle in our hearts.

Romans 4:18-21(NLT)

18 Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!”

1. “No reason to hope - ville”
Have you ever been there?
“By all accounts, it doesn’t make sense.” God has said He’ll take care of you, and somehow he will. “God will make a way, when there seems to be no way.

2. So why did he keep hoping?
Abraham was certain of one thing: God had said he would be the father of many nations and somehow God would do it. This the ONE SURE THING. GOD PROMISES AND GOD DOESN’T LIE.

3. We live with blinders on. We say “but, but, but” . We think there’s just one puny solution, the one that we’re FIXATED on. But God can solve the problem in an infinite number of ways. He’s infinite! He is the God of the possible. He’s got a million ways to solve your problem, and you and me only need to cooperate with him on one.

4. He’s the God of the possible. He is able to do, “much more than we can even ask or imagine”

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to

do immeasurably more than all we **ask** or **imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us,

He may not do exactly what we're praying for but he can immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine.

On December 22, 2004, we left Waco Texas for West Tenn.

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19 And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb

1. Abraham is a realist – He faced the facts. God never asks us to pretend that things are other than they really are. Abraham's as good as dead. "Hey, do we still have a pulse on Abraham? Whups, we're losing him. Whoa we got him back".

Our vet calls Sparky, our almost 13 year old Sheltie, "old man". "Come on, old man, get up on your hind legs." Okay, old man, stop your whimpering.

Here's Abraham – "he faced the fact that his

body was as good as dead”. He knows that Sarah’s womb is as good as dead.

Yet faith (believing what God said) trumps facts. What does Abraham plan to do. “Have a family!”. He tells the doctors, “Yeah, me and Sarah are going to start a little family.”

Pastor Paul Cho calls this the 4th dimension.

We’re used to 3 dimensions – what I see with my own eyes – height, depth, width. Yet the 4th dimension has power over the 3rd dimension. He marched around Yoido Island and envisioned the church he believed God wanted to build.

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20 Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.

1. Keep your gaze on God and glance at your circumstance. Where did his faith lie? Not in himself. Not in the obvious facts. But in that GOD SAID SO. He knew that God said so. He was CLEAR on one thing – God had said he'd be the father of many nations, so somehow he would be. God said so, and this STRENGTHENED HIS FAITH.

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21 He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises

We trust God's power not our own. Whose power did you trust? Not his own. "Being fully persuaded that God had power."

Does God want you to grow as his child? Does he? He has the power to do it. Not your power, but his. "He who began a good work in you, will complete it." Phil 1:5. What does we need to do. JUST HOLD ON. ABIDE. REST. FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS.

Does God want this church to grow? Has God promised this church a “future and a hope”. Then we just need to hold on, to rest, abide, follow where he leads.

The Lord’s supper is a sign of our covenant relationship with God. Remember what covenant is about – “unconditional personal commitment”. God loves you and is committed to your care no matter what. As you come to the table reaffirm unconditional personal commitment to God whose given all for you.