

to Him who is able
to do immeasurably



more than

A Message from Monte

Thanks for joining us in studying the Bible and praying about the More Than initiative!

This prayer and devotional guide is designed to be used this week, as we continue to seek God's will in our hearts and in our homes. This week, we will center our thoughts on **venturing forth in faith**.

Day 1 - In faith, Abram ventures forth. (Genesis 12)

When God told Abram to pack his household and go to the land He would show, Abram had no idea where that journey might lead him. He left the land of Haran, along with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot, even though he didn't know what was awaiting him, only that God had promised to bless him and give him a home. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews, called a "Gallery of Faith", tells us that Abram obeyed and went, because he believed God's promises. God has given us a multitude of promises too! For instance, He has promised us strength (Isaiah 40:29-31), rest (Matthew 11: 28-19), peace (John 14:27), hope (Jeremiah 29:11), and eternal life (Romans 6:23).

Pray that we will be obedient, even when we don't know where God is leading us, and that we will trust in His many promises, knowing that He is faithful to keep them.

Day 2 - In faith, Abram defers to Lot. (Genesis 13)

Abram and Lot soon needed to part company, in order to provide food and water for their growing flocks and herds. Abram, as the elder of the family, had the right to select the prime spot for himself, but he chose to defer to his nephew Lot. God had led Abram this far, and, trusting that God would place him where He wanted him to be, Abram gave Lot first choice. Faith in God's promises led Abram to dependency on His provision. Lot's choice was the Plain of Jericho, well-watered and green, however, it was also near the city of Sodom. Abram was led to Canaan, which was later revealed to be the land of promise, as we see in Genesis 15:7: "I brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land!"

Pray that we will be willing to trust the Father to place us exactly where He wants us to be, resting in the confidence that He will protect us and provide for our every need. Let us be a people who puts the needs of others ahead of our own, knowing that God will honor any sacrifice we make for His glory.

Day 3 - In faith, Abram believes God for a son. (Genesis 15)

Abram and Sarai had no children, and were both well-past childbearing years when the word of the Lord came to him, promising him an heir. Verse 6 tells us that “Abram believed the Lord, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Hebrews 11:11-12, describing this event, states that Abram was able to become a father because he believed in the faithfulness of the One who made the promise! When we read of one of God’s promises, is our confidence in the promise or in the Maker of the Promise? God has promised to meet all of our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4: 19) Do we have confidence that He is able to do that? Do we have confidence that He will?

Pray that as our faith grows, we will recognize that the One who makes the promise will keep the promise, so that we, like Abram, can see the promise fulfilled.

Day 4 - In faith, Abraham believes God’s covenant. (Genesis 17)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and described a covenant He was making with him. He promised to make Abram the father of many nations, and changed his name to Abraham, which means “father of many.” God promised that this covenant would include numerous descendants, a land to call their own, and blessings that would extend to all nations. God instructed Abraham to submit to circumcision as a sign of the covenant. Abraham brought together every male in his household “on that very day” and circumcised them, as God had instructed him. He demonstrated his faith in the covenant by his instant obedience!

Pray that we too will prove our faith by our obedience, trusting in God’s promises.

Day 5 - In faith, Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac. (Genesis 22)

Hebrews 11: 17-19 describes this event this way: “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.” What faith Abraham demonstrated! He seems to have been confident that God can do more than we could ask or imagine.

Pray that our faith will embrace God’s promises and that we will venture forth in that faith without fear!