

Genesis Behind the Curtain: Abraham's Journey of Faith Episode 6: When Enough Is Never Enough

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Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."² But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit³ my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"⁴ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."⁶ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring⁷ be."⁸ **Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

Question: Is God enough?

God's Declaration: Vs. 1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

- **"Do not be afraid."**
 - Abram is promised protection.
- **"I am your reward"**
 - Abram is promised an eternal inheritance, God himself.

Abram's Response: Vs. 2-3 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, **what can you give me** since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"⁴ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

- Abram responds with one of the most consequential conjunctions in the word of God, "But".
- Obviously, God Himself was not enough for Abraham.

A sign of spiritual maturity is when our never-ending lists of, "God, what can you give me" shrink to containing only the line, "God, you are all I need."

God's Promise: Vs. 4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

- **He took him outside:** Rarely are good decisions made when suffering from tunnel vision or constriction of the visual field resulting in loss of peripheral vision.

Abram "Finally" Believes: Vs. 6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

- Abram gets the answer right, but the timing is wrong.
- Righteousness comes through belief and blessing crowns the head of the righteous.

Small Group Questions:

1. How would your life be different if you were completely content with just God's presence?
2. Of all the things God could have declared to Abram in Vs. 1 he chose protection and Himself (God) as a reward. Why do you think God chose those two elements?
3. Abram asked, "What can you give me?" What is on your "What can you give me list?"
4. Would you be content not to get what is on your list if instead you only got God's presence and protection?
5. Abram was given a wider vision of things when he was taken outside. Are you prone to tunnel vision? How would it help you to get a bigger vision?