

From Control to Trust **(Parallel: Abraham's Future is Ours Series – Part V)**

10/4/2009

NOTE: Until Gen. 17:5, Abraham has the name of Abram, but to simplify the discussion we will be using the name God gives him, Abraham.

1. Read Genesis 15:1-6.

a) In the first three verses Abraham responds to God's promises with a complaint. Describe the problem and why Abraham might have grounds for concern.

b) Summarize God's response in v. 4 – 5.

c) Based on the response of God, Abraham makes a choice. What was it?

2. Pastor Steve described two extremes of what we believe about God. What were they and where do you fall on the continuum that connects them?

3. How do we resolve the dilemma that comes from:

a) It bothers God when we won't take a step

b) It bothers us when God doesn't take His step after we've stepped out.

4. What is your reaction to the claim that God is slow?

5. What was Abraham and Sarah's response to what they perceived as a slow and unresponsive God? (see Gen. 16:1-2)

6. How are believing and trusting different?

7. What would God have us to do in the time between when we receive a promise or a calling and when we finally experience fulfillment, especially if the gap between the two is many years?

8. So how did all this work out for Abraham? (read Hebrews 11:11-12 and comment)

9. What is the bottom line for all this debate? (see Romans 4: 16-17 to see how this resolves itself)

10. Pastor Steve ended with an observation that "Visions are not discerned; they are revealed." How does this expand on the main thoughts from the rest of the sermon?