

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.
Out of Town: The Dowlings.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“What will You give me ... How shall I know that I will inherit it?”

By Derek Long

God had called Abram to leave his homeland and go to a land He would show him (Genesis 12:1). God had made promises about what He would do for Abram's descendants in the future (Genesis 12:2-3, 7). Abram obeyed the Lord's instructions to leave his homeland and go where the Lord directed him to go. Abram came to the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:4-9). After some period of time has passed long enough for Abram to have gone to Egypt during a famine and return from there (Genesis 12:10-20), Lot and Abram's possessions to have become so great they must separate (Genesis 13), and Lot to be captured and Abram rescue him (Genesis 14), God appears to Abram. In Genesis 15:1 God tells Abram, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward” (NKJV). God is promising to protect Abram and perhaps also to bless him. We are not told what exactly Abram was afraid of or tempted to be afraid of. However, we do know what was perhaps on Abram's mind at this time by the response he gives to God's statement. Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? ... Look, You have given me no off-

spring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!” (Genesis 15:2-3, NKJV). It appears Abram is concerned about how God will fulfill the promises made to his descendants without giving him any child as a descendant. God responds by simply assuring Abram he will be given a child and his descendants will multiply exceedingly (Genesis 15:4-5). Genesis 15:6 says of Abram, “And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (NKJV). Abram believed in God by trusting God’s promises and taking God at his word. The New Testament makes the point we need to have the same sort of faith as Abram demonstrated on this occasion and throughout his life (Romans 4:1-25; Galatians 3:6-9; James 2:21-24).

Perhaps there are times in our life where we look at things and question whether God’s promises will actually come true. Maybe we start wondering if God’s plan for the home is the best way for the home to function (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). Maybe we start wondering if God’s plan for the church is the best way for it to function (Ephesians 3:10-11). Maybe we start wondering if prayer is really effective (James 5:16-18). Maybe we start wondering if the Lord will actually come again (2 Peter 3:1-9). Abram would have to wait a long time to receive a son and would not see the complete fulfillment of the promises God made to him regarding his descendants within his lifetime (Hebrews 11:13-16). Are we willing to trust God even if it does not appear any results are happening right away and continue doing what He tells us to do? If we are going to have the type of faith Abram displayed on this occasion, we will!

In Genesis 15:7 God reaffirms His promise to give the land of Canaan to Abram’s descendants. In response, Abram asks, “Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?” (Gen-

esis 15:8, NKJV). In Genesis 15:9-21 we read of God entering into a covenant with Abram to give the land to his descendants. The most solid assurance we can have that something will be is to have the promise of God according to Hebrews 6:13-20. As a result, God is giving Abram the most solid assurance that the promise will be fulfilled which was possible for Him to give. How many times do people today want some additional proof beyond what the word of God says about some particular topic? There is no greater proof of the validity of something than for God to have said it because it is impossible for God to lie. As we go through the Bible, we read of God keeping His promise to Abram and his descendants and such should strengthen our confidence that God will keep His promises to us as well. Are we willing to build our lives upon the teachings and promises contained in God’s word? Abram built his life upon God’s instructions and promises and we must too if we hope to be pleasing to God (Matthew 7:24-27).