Nobody else told me in your Bibles the book of Genesis chapter 15.
It's no secret that my favorite songs are those
songs that make much of God and the work of God.
And that's where that song comes from.
It's saying you are the one that we praise.
You are the one we adore.
You are the one that our hearts long for.
Genesis chapter 15, beginning reading verse number 1.
Good to see all of you here tonight.
I want to read these all 21 verses in the 15th chapter of the book of Genesis.
The Bible says,
And after these things, the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision saying,
Fear not, Abram.
I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.
I love that verse.
I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.
And Abram said, Y'all listen, let's see this conversation and vision
in all of this taking place in this man's life.
And Abram said, Lord God, what will thou give me seeing I go childless?
And the steward of my house is the easier of Damascus.
And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed.
And lo, one born in my house is mine heir.
And behold, the word of the Lord came unto him saying, This shall not be thine heir.
But he that shall come forth out of thine own bile shall be thine heir.
And he brought him forth abroad and said,
Look now toward heaven and tell the stars if they'll be able to number them.
And he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
Verse 6 says,
And he, referring to Abram,
believed in the Lord.
And he counted it to him for righteousness.
And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of the Ur of Chaldees
to give thee this land to inherit it.
And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?
And he said unto him, Take me a heifer of three years old
and a she-gold of three years old and a ram of three years old and a turtle dove
and a young pigeon.
This is a unique scene here in scripture.
And he took unto him all these and he divided them up in the midst.
He cut them
and laid each piece
one against the another
but the birds he divided not.
And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses,
Abram drove them away.
Abram takes these animals
and he cuts them in half and he's there protecting them
as the vultures come to scoop down to eat them and Abram drives them away.
And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram.
And lo, a horror of great darkness fell upon him.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger
and a land that is not theirs and shall serve them.
And they shall afflict them four hundred years and also that nation
whom they shall serve will I judge.
And afterwards shall they come out
with great substance.
And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace.
Thou shalt be buried in good old age.
But in the fourth generation thou shalt come hither again
for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.
And it came to pass that when the sun went down
and it was dark,
behold a smoking furnace and a burning lamp
that passed between those pieces.
And the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram saying,
Unto thy seed have I given this land from the river of Egypt
to the great river, the river Euphrates,
the Kenites and the Kenizzites and the Ketamonites and the Hittites
and the Perizzites and the Rephams
and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Gergesites
and the Jebusites.
Let's go to the Lord in prayer tonight.
God, I thank you for the testimonies that have been shared.
God, most of all for the people that have shared them
and the truth of the work
that you have done in their life.
Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
But you are also the God of Brian Weems.
Lord, the God of today.
The God who cannot change, will not change, and need not change.
Lord, I pray tonight that you would take your word,
that you would use it to teach us, to strengthen us,
to mold us,
to shape us.
Lord, that we might be vessels fit
to bring glory and honor to you.
Lord, take your time tonight.
Lord, use it
as you see fit.
Lord, in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.
And amen.
Very first verse here in chapter 15, we find this phrase,
and after these things,
after these things, we're already now
into the fifth chapter,
so you ask the question,
what things is he talking about?
Many of the things that we looked at this morning
in chapter 12,

where we find that God is a God of blessing.
He tells Abram, I will bless thee.
I will bless all nations.
Through thee, you will be a blessing.
God is a God of judgment.
God is a God of wrath.
God is a God
of mercy and grace, but God is also
a God of great and tremendous blessing.
He's a God of blessing.
He calls out to Abram
to come out and follow me.
He says,
get thee out.
He doesn't say,
if you would, I'd like for you to go in my direction.
No.
He commands him, you leave all that you know, all that's comfortable to you,
and you come out to the place that I will show you,
and you're going to have to follow me where we are going.
We saw that God is this God who is long-suffering
and are stumbling in this path
of God's will,
in this path of following the Lord.
Abram finds his place going to a place he shouldn't have went, doing something
he shouldn't have done,
and God is long-suffering with him
as he is with us, and lastly, we saw
where God's sovereign hand
protected Abram.
He protected Sarah in Egypt.
That's all in chapter 12, chapter 13,
chapter 14,
Abraham and Lot are traveling together,
and Abraham and Lot separate the land wasn't big enough to hold them.
Abram allows Lot to choose first.
Lot chooses the plush pastures of Sodom,
and Abraham chooses
the plains of Canaan.
War breaks out there amongst the people, amongst the land.
Lot is taken.
He's captive.
Abraham runs to his rescue.
Abraham goes and rescues Lot, and he is, and here we meet this person,
this individual,
this being,
Michalzadek
who blesses Abram,
the prophet,
the friend of the Most High God,

and then also the king of Sodom offers Abram gifts.
He says, I don't want so much as a shoelace from you.
All of those things happen in chapter 13
and chapter 14, and here we get to chapter 15,
and I don't know about the title
to share except other than more about the Lord.
God and Abram,
more about the Lord.
The whole purpose of this Bible that we have,
we find boats in it,
we find birds in it, we find the end of all things
in it, we find the creation of all things in it,
we find man in it, but folks, the purpose of the Bible
isn't about man,
it's about God,
and whatever we look at in this,
it should be our endeavor to learn more
about the Lord through it.
There's some things we find in this chapter that
I very briefly want to share with you tonight.
Beginning verse 1
through 3,
the first thing that really jumped out to me
is God is a God who knows
our secret thoughts and our deepest fears.
Look what the scripture says.
After these things, all of these things that occurred,
after these things, the word of the Lord came
into Abram in a vision saying, Fear not, Abram,
I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.
And Abram said, Lord God, what will thou give me seeing I go childless
and the steward of my house is this Eliezer
of Damascus?
And Abram said,
Behold to me thou hast given me no seed and lo,
one born in my house
is my heir.
Folks, we could spend an entire revival week
on the last phrase of verse number 1 where the Lord tells Abram,
I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.
I am the same I am
that Moses says, Who shall I say sent me?
You say I am
that I am has sent you.
The same I am that we read about
in the Gospel of John where Jesus says,
I am the way,
the truth, and the life.
I am the door.
I am the good shepherd.

I am the living water.
I am the manna from heaven.
The Lord's speaking to Abraham in the context
of this seed, of this nation, of this land,
of this people, of all of these things.
God says, I am thy shield.
I am your protector.
I am your high tower.
I am your keeper.
I am your guard.
I am the one
that is looking to you.
Not just somebody,
but I am God.
I am thy shield.
But lastly,
he says,
I'm thy exceeding great reward.
As a matter of fact, Abram,
I promise things to you and I'm going to do things
through you to bless you and an entire world through you.
But what he's saying here,
I'm the grandest thing
that you could ever know.
I'm the greatest thing that you could ever possess.
It's not about the children that's coming.
It's not about the land that will be given to you.
But I am
the greatest gift, the greatest one,
the greatest treasure,
the greatest pleasure that you could ever have.
But that great statement begins with a command
where God says,
fear not.
I am thy shield
and thy exceeding great reward.
And those first two words really don't seem to fit
with what God goes on to say.
But the reason that he said those things
is God knew
the secret thoughts
and the deepest fears of Abram.
He knew that this child of his, the one who had come out when he was called,
he had come out
to follow by faith,
was now being consumed with
with his own thoughts and his own fears.
He was being distracted by the circumstances
and the unfavorable facts that were against him.
And I love it, verse number 10,

I love it because God knows exactly before Abram has verbalized
a single thing
that God knows exactly what's on Abram's heart.
He knows exactly what's on his mind.
Here's a man who had heard this promise.
He's walking,
he's going,
but at the same time
he's struggling to understand because guess what?
Things ain't happening yet.
I don't have a boy.
I don't have a land.
I'm a nomad and none of these things are coming to pass.
And God preemptively
interrupts this thought process and says, fear not,
I am thy shield
and I exceeding great reward.
But I love verse number five.
Verse number five,
it says,
and he brought him forth abroad and said,
look now toward heaven
and tell the stars
if thou be able to number them.
And he said to him,
so shall thy seed be.
I love this, he brings Abram outside at night time and he tells him,
basically I'm going to paraphrase,
look up son,
you see all those stars in the sky?
Me and Ricky was driving the other day, I forgot
how many stars are estimated to be out there.
If you could count them all, which you cannot,
that is what I am going to do through you.
I know you have fears.
I know you have thoughts.
I know you got doubts.
I know you got circumstances.
Abraham ain't 75 no more.
There's been a lot of years piled onto him
and things ain't going right.
So God intervenes, he interrupts, he knows what's going through his mind.
He says, you see that out there?
That's exactly what I'm going to accomplish.
Y'all remember that song?
I used to sing it in vacation Bible school.
I had no idea what it meant.
Father Abraham
had many sons.
Many sons had Father Abraham.

I'm one of them and so are you.
So let's just praise the Lord.
Right on, left on, right on.
That's where we get this from.
God is saying,
I know what's going on in your life.
I know how things look.
I know it.
And by the way,
tonight,
your thoughts,
your fears,
the things you've yet to express or verbalize
to maybe anybody else or even to God,
he knows those things already.
There's no secrets with him.
But God is here in this scene and what I really rejoiced over as I studied
and the fact that Abraham was an old man and he was a less than perfect man.
God has never been
without a plan or an answer.
God has never been confused.
He's never been confounded.
Sin come in and it wrecked this world
but it didn't wreck God.
What God is telling Abraham,
I am still God
and what I told you I'm going to do,
I'm going to do it and I'm going to do it to a greater scale
and to a greater means and a greater blessing than you could ever
possibly conceive.
But that's where the rubber here begins to meet the road.
Folks, Abraham had to make a choice.
And there comes a time in our life
when we have our fears and we have these circumstances and we have the promises,
we have our faith,
we have these things and they almost tend to
battle one against another though we believe.
I love that passage of scripture where that father cries out,
Lord I believe but help my unbelief.
So here Abram is and he's been faithful and he's been going and he's been minding
but the reality is he can't see all of this thing happening so God in his grace
he interrupts and comes into his life and says just take a look upstairs,
take a look up in the sky.
But at this point Abram had to make a choice.
He was either going to side
with his old age and his bareness
and his circumstances or he was going
to believe the Lord.
Preacher, what has that got to do with us?
Tonight,

some of us are going to have to make a decision.
We're either going to side with the circumstances,
we're either going to side with the conditions,
we're either going to side with the doom and the gloom and the facts
of what it's like to deal with difficulties
and trials and questions or all of these things
or we are going to side with the Lord
and this is exactly where Abram's at but God knew his secret thoughts
and his deepest fears.
The second thing I want us to learn about the Lord tonight
is he dispenses his grace
to the currency of faith.
Look at verse number five.
It says,
verse number six.
It says,
and he believed in the Lord
and he counted it to him for righteousness.
This is one of the most
important verses
in all of your Bible.
Highlight it,
underlight it.
You say,
preacher,
what does this mean?
We need to understand this.
And that's why I wanted to sort of paint the scene or felt led
to paint the scene.
This is,
it's a real life situation
where we have this world
and we have God.
We have God's promises
and we have
our fears.
We have the difficulties and then
we have the Lord.
And so here Abram, he is, he's caught.
I've got
to make a choice.
Not got to,
I'm going to make a choice.
And that's the truth of all of us here now.
We will make a choice but this scripture says,
and Abraham believed in the Lord.
That word believed is huge.
Folks, I do not want to complicate what the Lord has made simple.
Y'all know there's a difference between simple and complicated.
But I also do not want to make easy what the Lord says is hard.

We understand the difference in that.
I heard a man say one time it's easy to get saved.
Jesus is straight as the gate and narrow as the way.
It's compressing.
It's not simple.
I mean, it's not easy.
It's not easy.
Well, all we got to do is believe.
Well, the scripture says the devils believe and tremble.
Does it not?
What kind of belief is that?
It's an intellectual belief.
It's a belief not just that God exists.
It's demonic belief like the demons had in Gadarene.
The Lord Jesus came over there
to evict those demons out of that man.
And the devils met him and they recognized him instantly who he was.
Thou art the Christ, the Son of God.
They believed.
Did that save them?
No, they didn't save them.
They moved beyond that.
They recognized his power and his right to judge them.
Please don't cast us away out of the outer darkness.
Put us into those pigs.
Y'all follow where I'm going?
They had an intellectual faith.
They believed.
They knew in their heart exactly who he was.
That's not the kind of faith that saves.
Folks,
the faith that saves is what is written right here.
It is the word pistou.
What it means is Abraham trusted and entrusted himself to God.
It is a belief that leads to submission.
It is a belief that leads an individual to cast all that he is, all of his sin,
all of his care,
all of his concerns,
all of his past,
his future,
his presence,
that I just don't believe that God is out there.
But I've heard this God speak.
I've seen this God move.
And now I believe.
And Lord,
I am fully entrusting myself, to you.
Hallelujah.
That's what he's talking about.
That Abraham believed in the Lord.

Notice this.
At this point,
God had done a thing.
There was no seed.
There was no land.
There was no Isaac.
All Abraham had was the promise of God.
But notice that verse.
he believed
in the Lord.
That's big.
He believed in the Lord.
I heard an old preacher say one time,
a man's faith will only rise as high as his view of God.
Friend, I had to preach and it needs to preach.
Here's why he believed in God.
His view of God is that God was faithful.
Here's why he was going to go on to offer Isaac on Mount Moriah.
He believed that God could raise him from the dead.
It wasn't about how strong Abram was.
It was about how big his God was.
And because his God was that big,
he was able to take himself, his sin,
his past, his present, his future,
move along to some intellectual
agreement,
and actually
give himself
fully to the Lord.
folks,
and that is the means,
that is the faith to which God dispenses his grace.
That is how God imparted his righteousness to an unrighteous man.
Y'all turn with me to Romans chapter 4.
This is going to be a little bit of a Bible study right here,
but we need to see this.
So it's more than just something about a record
that we see in the book of Genesis chapter 15.
If y'all don't leave with anything else tonight,
leave with this,
God dispenses his saving grace.
God dispenses his sustaining grace.
God dispenses his sufficient grace through
the currency of faith.
Through the currency of faith.
Abraham
believed the Lord.
If I felt like anybody could,
Alton used to could, but I don't think he can anymore.
If I thought anybody in here was big enough to hold me,

I'd run and just jump up in your arms.
That's what we're talking about.
It's just you go,
God,
here I am.
I believe you.
I trust you.
Romans chapter 4.
I want to do a little bit of reading here,
and I may go back and comment on it.
Romans chapter 4.
Paul says in verse 1,
what shall we say then that Abraham,
our father,
as pertaining to the flesh.
For Abraham was justified by works,
he hath worth to glory,
but not before God.
Justify.
When you find that in your Bible, what it means to be declared righteous.
It is a
statement,
it is a pronouncement from God
of righteousness.
So Paul's writing,
let's take Abraham's what Paul said.
Let's look at Abraham.
We're talking about righteousness.
We're talking about justification.
We're talking about being saved.
What shall we say then that Abraham,
our father,
as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
For if Abraham was justified by works,
he hath worth to glory,
but not
before God.
What does that mean?
If Abraham was justified because he was so obedient,
he could boast.
not before the Lord.
For what saith the scripture?
Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
Not to him that worketh is a reward not reckoned of grace,
but of debt.
But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the godly,
his faith is counted for righteousness.
Even as David also described the blessedness of the
man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.
Y'all following what Paul's writing here?

Saying,
blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.
Verse 9,
cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only?
Is this just for the Jews?
Abraham,
the father of the Jewish nation?
Or is this upon the uncircumcision also?
Is this for the Gentile?
For we say that faith was wrecking Abraham for righteousness?
But there's a question in verse 10.
How then was it reckoned?
How did it happen?
When he was in circumcision or in uncircumcision?
Not in circumcision,
but in uncircumcision.
And he received a sign of circumcision,
a seal of the righteousness of the faith,
which he had yet been
uncircumcised,
that he might be the father of all them that believe,
though they be not circumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also.
And the father of circumcision to them who were not of the circumcision only,
but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham,
which he had being yet
uncircumcised.
for the promise that he should be the heir of the world,
was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law,
but to the righteousness of faith,
for if they which are of the law be heirs,
faith is made void,
and the promise made of no effect,
because the law worketh wrath, for where no law is, there is no transgression.
Therefore,
verse 16,
therefore it is of faith that it might be by grace,
to the end the promise might be sure to all the
so which is of the faith of Abraham,
who is the father of us all.
As it is written,
I have made thee a father of many nations,
for him who believed even God,
who quickeneth the dead,
and calleth those things which be not as though they were,
who against hope believed in hope,
that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken,
so shall I see thee,
and being not weak in faith,

he considered not his own body now dead,
when he was about a hundred years old,
neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb,
he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief,
but was strong in faith,
giving glory to God,
and being fully persuaded that what he had promised,
he was able also to perform.
I love that,
God promised it,
God promised it,
and I believe that the same God that promised it is able to perform it,
so what?
I believe and I trust myself to this God,
and therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
Now,
it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,
but for us also to whom it shall be imputed if we believe on him that raised up
Jesus
O Lord from the dead who was delivered for our
offenses and was raised again for our justification.
Here's where we're going with this.
We're talking about Abraham,
we're talking about the Old Testament.
Here's a man,
just a mere man.
I love what somebody mentioned it this morning.
I might have read it in somebody's post recently.
Just a man,
a regular man.
But God says my plan is to use man to show my glory, my strength, my power.
Abraham,
here's what I'm going to do.
And I'm going to do it through you.
Now you have to make a choice.
You're going to believe me or you're going to not believe me in Abraham with both
feet though he couldn't understand it all,
explain it all,
and says God I'm getting in with you.
And
that this righteousness was imputed to Abraham.
It was credited to his account.
The righteousness of God.
So what Paul's writing here,
well how did this happen?
Did this happen because Abraham was circumcised?
No!
No!
Abraham was made righteous before he was circumcised.
Listen,

circumcision and baptism ain't the same thing.
But brother, if you don't get made righteous before you get in that tub right there,
it won't do you nobody good.
A man is not made righteous because he was circumcised.
But see,
man takes things and we begin,
now we glory in this thing.
I'm a Jew, I'm circumcised,
I'm the father of Abraham,
said the scribes and Pharisees and Jesus is that.
He said, no, your father is the devil.
If you were the father of Abraham,
you would do what Abraham did.
So justification didn't come through the works of circumcision.
He said, what about the law?
Maybe he was made righteous with God because
he obeyed the works of the law.
No,
Abraham
was justified before God even gave the law.
That came through Moses.
Preacher, now you did a whole bunch of reading and a whole bunch of teaching.
Let me tell you what I want to tell you.
Folks,
the only
way for us to be made right with God is to believe God in faith.
That is the only way to be justified.
It's not my works,
it's not my circumstances,
it's not my preaching,
it's not anything else I do.
I can't bring anything else to the table.
I have to believe God,
that God is who He is.
I have to believe He so strongly.
That all that I am,
I give it to Him.
Paul goes on in chapter 5.
Not only is that the only way we have been justified,
it's the only way a man can be justified.
It says in chapter 5, verse 1,
Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Faith,
faith,
faith.
It's a continual,
constant necessity in the life of a Christian.
Because these circumstances,
these fears,

these trials,
these difficulties,
God knows them.
They'll be there.
But Abram's here and he's sided with the Lord.
But I want to share this last thing with you.
Folks,
this is,
again, it's the truth about God.
He dispenses this grace through the currency
of faith.
I've always got to ask myself, how is my faith?
How is my faith?
Faith,
it's one of those things that can go up and down.
It's one of those things that can move, Robert.
It's good hearing it and it's good there.
It's one of those things that I've got to feed.
I've got to feed.
How do I get it?
The Bible says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
That the more I see God, the more I read about God, the more I pray to God,
the more I see God work,
faith begins to grow,
the more I begin to experience the grace of God in my life.
But I want us to see this last thing.
Folks, who is God?
He knows our secret thoughts and deepest fears.
He dispenses grace to the currency of faith.
Lastly,
God is the power and the lone promise keeper.
God is the power
and the lone promise keeper.
Look with me if you would in verse number nine.
Verse eight, he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?
He said it to him,
take me a heifer of three years old and she go to three years old and a ram of three
years old and a turtle dove and a young pigeon.
And he took unto him all these and divided them in
the midst and laid each piece one against another,
but the birds he divided not.
And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses,
Abram drove them away.
And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram,
and lo a horror of great darkness fell upon him.
And he said unto Abram,
no for surety,
in other words, no for certain,
son,
that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs and shall serve them.

And they shall afflict them four hundred years.
He's talking about that slavery in Egypt.
And also that nation who shall they serve,
will I judge.
And afterwards shall they come out with great substance.
And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace.
Thou shalt be buried in good old age,
but in the fourth generation that shall come hither again,
for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.
And it came to pass, and here's where it gets good,
and it came to pass when the sun went down and it was dark.
I want y'all to see this.
Look down this hallway right here.
We got dead animals on both sides.
Both sides.
There's Abraham
and there's God.
It's dark.
And it came to pass when the sun went down
and it was dark.
A deep sleep that fell upon Abraham.
God sent it.
It said it was dark and behold a smoking furnace
and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.
And the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abraham saying
unto thy seed have I given this land from the river
of Egypt to the great river the river of Euphrates.
Here's what all this means.
Folks in these times in Abraham's times people made covenants.
They made pledges.
They made promises.
They made pacts to one another.
And often times they would make these covenants in very dramatic fashion.
In the sense here this would occur.
And what one is saying to the other let's just say Nicky it's me and you here
and we've made this pact that we're going to unite.
It's me and you we're a team and we're going to have this covenant here and
we're going to divide these birds and what we're
going to do if one of us break this covenant
may what's been done to these animals
be done to us.
That's what it meant.
But here's the significance in this passage of scripture.
Abram and God didn't walk through it together
in the form of a furnace in the form of a lamp God walked through this alone.
What God is saying this is my promise
this is my work
I am going to do this this friend is
unconditional Abraham this ain't about your
strength this is what I am going to do.

It is the Abrahamic covenant the unconditional Abrahamic covenant
where God says by my own
determination
by my own power by my own will by my own strength I'm going to multiply your seed I'm
going to make me a nation I'm going to bring the Messiah I'm going to make a land I'm
going to do it Abraham without your help
now listen you said preacher what's I got to do with this there are some conditional requirements to this thing it's about the promised land brother Lord
in order to enter that promised land it was conditional
in order to remain in that promised land it was conditional
in order to stay and enjoy that promised land it was conditional y'all know the story
they got in it but they didn't stay in it why because they didn't need the conditions
but the reality is what God is saying I am going to
perform this
God God God has determined by his own self determination and his own power without the help of Brian Weems or Mitzi Weems or anybody else in this room before the foundation of this world was laid the God the father said my son is going into this world and he is going to be the savior of humanity
unconditional my son is going to work I'm going to redeem but Brian we have some unconditional promises of the Lord as well
his working in us the book of Ephesus says that we are his workmanship
the book of Philippians says that he began a good work will complete us in it the reason you got saved is because God did something and
what he promised to do and he's going to continue to do it
God's working in us
God's keeping us what does Jesus say in the gospel of John
I'm my father one no man shall pluck me pluck you
out of my father's hand my my we're held by two hands
Colossians says
we are hid with Christ in God
can I tell you friend those are unconditional
those are God's promises
John chapter 14
Dickie read it Sunday school this morning an unconditional promise his return for us his carrying us with us John chapter 14
he says in my father's house are many mansions if it were not so I would have told you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also you say brother Brian what does
all of this have to do with us I want us to get
keep us fear in our secret thoughts he knows what we struggle with but this same God who worked in Abraham's life he says my grace is made true to you it works in you only through the currency of faith and because I am who I am I have determined to do some things and I'm going to get them done it doesn't matter who stands against it or works against it
see

if we embrace these things
as we should
it won't lead to laziness
I tell you to lead to sister maybe it will lead to rest
y'all follow what I just said
that God
has determined
to keep me
that God has determined to come home and get me that God has determined to work through me you know what that don't mean I'm going to
sit back on my heels but I'll tell you what it does mean
thank you dear God
to rest
and to a little peace
it won't lead to sin and neglect
what it will lead to
is commitment
it will lead to consecration
it will lead to holiness
it will lead to worship
you say
brother Brian will it really lead to those things
we may spend a little more time in the book of Abraham
not the book of Abraham but the book of Genesis
I'm going to tell you what it lead to when you embrace him you read Hebrews chapter 11
how could a man
my goofy son decided to jump out of an airplane yesterday for no good reason
the kid ain't got the sense God gave a goat
I can't imagine
being willing to sacrifice his life
because I love him
God said Abraham
you take Isaac your only son Isaac and you take
him before Mount Moriah and you offer him to me
Abraham didn't drag his feet
he didn't make excuses
he tells everybody with him me and the boy we're going to go up there and worship and we'll be back
how
faith
in who
God is
faith
that God had made a promise
I'm going to create a nation through you the
whole entire world is going to be blessed
so here's what Abraham's thinking according to book of Hebrews
well if I take his life God's just going to raise him up again
see

this ain't ancient history
this is how we live the Christian life
is that my sin grieves God
God's judged sin he would judge my sin and one day he would judge the entire world full of sin and this thing God gives grace
this same great God is the God of blessing
this same great God has called me to come out and to follow him this same great God knows that I'm going to stumble but this same great God has decided to look over me with his sovereign hand this same great God knows I have doubts and I know I have fears but he also says this it is only through faith it is only through trusting and entrusting me anything's going to get done in
your life but know this know this know this Brian
I've determined
to accomplish some things
friend that's a God we worship
he ain't weak
he ain't inept
he's the almighty God of heaven and earth
friend if you don't know him
it is by faith by faith by faith
let's pray heavenly father thank you for your word
I thank you that you are
who you are that your grace is greater than sin
that your long suffering is greater than our stumbles
that your promises are true even in the midst of our doubt
but dear Lord increase our faith
not necessarily our understanding
but just our faith
and the way you increase our faith is by showing
us more of who you are Lord that as we see you more
we obey you more we worship you more we honor you more we serve you more
and Lord we are the better off for it God I thank you for this church and thank you for tonight may you have your way in this invitation time in Jesus sweet name
I pray amen let's stand please two
Thank you.