

***The Abrahamic Covenant and
My Garden Green Beans***

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my good friend and neighbor who has encouraged me in my writing, and who has been a wonderful proofreader. She was also the inspiration for this book. I appreciate all the times you have helped fix my mistakes.

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Introduction

In this book I want to talk a little bit about *The Abrahamic Covenant and My Garden Green Beans*. Now, this title may make you wonder just what one has to do with the other. Well, this title was something that God put in my mind one summer not long ago while I was harvesting green beans from my garden. Let me tell you the story.

I don't have a very big garden. I had only planted 5 rows of green beans in my small garden. My husband and I love green beans, so I usually plant a lot of green beans. This particular year was a terrible year for gardening. The first thing that happened was the Japanese beetles. They came in like a scourge out of the Old Testament. I remember that they lit on a bush beside my garden. It was probably a 10 feet tall bush that was a huge bushy bush. I heard them before I saw them. They were making a loud chewing sound. In two days they stripped every leaf off of that bush. I watched them do several trees that same way. Then they got into my green beans. Those beetles really enjoyed them. I prayed over my beans, but watched as a little bit every day, they devoured the

leaves of my plants until they looked like lace. Then the drought came. It got so dry in my garden that it baked like clay. It was so dry that the ground cracked, there were huge cracks running across my garden. Then the deer came and ate my beets. I just knew that I was not going to get anything out of my garden at all at that rate.

My neighbor and I were standing discussing our hard time one day, and she made the statement, "I thought that the Abrahamic covenant was supposed to cover us from things like this." Both of us felt our faith wilting at the time along with the leaves of our vegetables. I believe that this is something that many people go through when they go through a valley. I know that the devil certainly whipped up on me that day. When we go through a valley or a struggle, we feel that somehow the promises in God's Word are not working for us. We felt like this on that day, but that isn't the end of the story. Keep reading to find out the end of the story. It will bless you.

Let's stop and talk a little about The Abrahamic Covenant. Seems like a lot of the big name preachers, and the TV evangelists, are preaching about The

Abrahamic Covenant. They are also preaching messages about prosperity, that God promises His people prosperity. That day while standing in our garden in the reality of the battle, The Abrahamic Covenant, the way that my neighbor had heard it preached, didn't lift us up, but instead it more or less crushed us down. Problem is, when this happens, so often Christians get defeated. They are taught that God promises prosperity in His covenant, and when the battle comes, they feel like there is something wrong with them, or that there is something wrong with their faith. That is exactly what the enemy of our soul wants us to feel. One of the devil's greatest weapons that he uses to destroy us is discouragement. Maybe he is behind some of the preaching that a lot of people are listening too. Maybe he is using all of this to discourage God's people. Let's take a look at this coming up in the next chapter.

Chapter 1. The Prosperity Message

When I turn on the television and listen to most preachers, I hear a lot about prosperity. I hear a lot about God's promises. I hear a lot about what God can give us, and do for us, but I don't hear very much about what our part involves. It is made to seem so easy. Instant promises for instant blessings. Most of them will over and over mention the Abrahamic covenant. Let's talk a little about what The Abrahamic Covenant is all about.

Genesis 12:1-3 tells us the beginning of Abrahams' story. "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Hebrews 11:8-11 tells us about how this ended. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By

faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

By faith Abraham left his home, and traveled each day to where God told him to go for that day. God didn't even tell him where he was going until the day that he got there. That to me is the most incredible part of Abraham's faith. Think of the amount of faith, and trust that it would take to completely yield to let God lead you every day on a journey, not knowing where or when it would end. You see, Abraham wasn't by himself. He had with him his wife, all their servants, his nephew Lot, and all that traveled with him. He had all his herds with him. He had his herdsmen with him. There were a lot of people that Abraham was responsible for. Still he obeyed God. I am sure that a lot of his family, and many of those who were with him, thought that he was more than a little crazy to do such a thing. Abraham, though, didn't listen to those voices, but to the voice of God.

Then God told Abraham in Genesis 17:15, "And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her." In verse 17 we read something that lets us know that even though Abraham had found favor with God, he was still just an ordinary man like us. "Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?" In verse 19 we read, "And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him." In Genesis 17:5-6 we read more about this covenant, "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." Even though he stumbled a little at God's

promise, he didn't stagger around, he didn't fall.

So what does all this have to do with us? Hebrews 11:11-12 says, "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable." Romans 8:14-17 tells us, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

We see through all this that we also inherit the promises that God made Abraham, because He has adopted us in, He has grafted us in, to be a part of Abraham's family, and these promises are for us as well. This is all called the Abrahamic

covenant. Wow. What a promise. It is a wonderful promise for us. Romans 4:16-24 sums it all up, "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also 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,) before him whom he 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 thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an 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. 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 our Lord from the dead."

Now I am not going to say that I don't believe in The Abrahamic Covenant, because you can read and tell that this isn't true. I am not going to say that this isn't a good thing, because it is. But when you are standing in a garden full of dried up plants, that have been eaten up by Japanese beetles, and you are struggling to find faith, and the devil is using this covenant to beat you up saying that there is something wrong with you, or your faith, because The Abrahamic Covenant isn't working for you, then something is wrong. When most people preach The Abrahamic Covenant, they leave out half of it. If you will go back and read what I wrote previously in this chapter, I am guilty of the same thing. It sounds so wonderful, and easy. Nothing to it. Just believe it and it will come. If it doesn't, then there is something wrong with you because God's word is perfect. It won't fail you. If something isn't working, then the problem has to be with you, and you are too beaten down to see what the problem is. Nobody explains that part when they preach The Abrahamic Covenant. They just preach the part that gets everybody excited. They just preach the part that gets everybody shouting.

Then they start talking about the money part of it all. They start talking about how to unlock the Abrahamic Covenant. They tell you that in order to unlock this to work for you, you need to give. You need to sow a faith seed in the kingdom of God. Then they always say, "God has told me that if someone will give a faith seed of \$20.00 right now, He will bless it." Then the amount goes up to thousands. If you sow thousands, God will bless it and return it a hundredfold. The implication is, if you don't give, then the Abrahamic Covenant is not for you. If you don't have money to give, then the Abrahamic Covenant is not working for you, and something is wrong with your faith, and wrong with your relationship with God. When you are standing in a garden full of drought and pestilence, then having this junk in your mind is not helpful at all. When the battle is going on, and the world is falling down around your head, then having this junk in your mind is not helpful at all. When the enemy is pressing around about you trying to take your health or steal your finances, then having this junk in your mind is not helpful at all.

The problem with this type of preaching is that it is like a junk food diet. It is all flash

and sugar. It has no substance. It has no meat. The Bible tells us that there is a spiritual diet of milk for babies, and meat for adults. We need to have the meat of God's Word to strengthen us for the realities of life, for life's drought and pestilences when they come, for the battles. We have to have meat to strengthen us to stand against the enemy. The nice words and easy promises are not enough to see us through, especially when the enemy uses them to beat us down because the promises are seemingly not working. We have to have more to hold us. We have to have meat to sustain us.

While I was standing in my garden in the middle of the drought with the Japanese beetles swarming around, in the middle of my discouragement, and in the middle of my feeling so beaten down because His promises had not worked for me, God laid on my heart that I needed to write this book. He wants to get the message out to His people, the true message about the Abrahamic Covenant, and the power that you can find in studying it. The next time that He brought it up was weeks later when I was standing in the middle of my harvest that He gave me. Matter of fact, I was picking beans and writing down notes

about what He was telling me to write at the same time. You should see those notes. They are covered with dirt. I think that some of it was mud from the dampness of the ground, but some of it was mud created from the dampness of my tears that hit the paper as I wrote.

You see God blessed my harvest. From vines that had long before had their leaves eaten to the place that they were like fine lace even before the blooms had turned to beans, vines that were wilted in the cracked, baked dry ground, I picked and canned 35 quarts of the most beautiful long green beans that I have ever had in my garden. That was in one picking. Later on, I got several more pickings off those same vines. That was in my 5 little rows. God blessed my green beans to confirm that He was teaching me, and to confirm that He wanted me to write this book. He did this to confirm this to you as well. It was certainly a miracle.

So keep reading. If you are feeling like I did before my miracle came, then keep reading. If you have ever felt like the Abrahamic Covenant sounded good, but it just didn't work for you, keep reading. If you have ever felt defeated because God's

promises just haven't worked for you, then keep reading. Keep reading, and find out how you can reap a miracle harvest in your life.

Chapter 2. Paul

If you look back at the scriptures that I used in the last chapter to tell about the Abrahamic Covenant, you will see that several of them came from the book of Hebrews and the book of Romans. It was interesting when I studied out the Abrahamic Covenant that Paul, who wrote both books, referred often to Abraham in both of them. The interesting part of that is that the book of Hebrews was written to the Jews, and the book of Romans was written to the Gentiles, those believers who are not Jews. When we read those scriptures about the Abrahamic Covenant in the last chapter, we talked about how it is for both groups of believers. Gentiles are adopted into the family of God, adopted into Abraham's family. We have been grafted in. Paul understood a lot about this because he was both a Jew, and a Roman.

My mother used to graft trees. She cut off a small limb of an apple tree, and she would also cut off a small limb from another apple tree that had a different kind of apples on it. She would split the limb from the other tree, fasten it over the cut off limb of the first tree, and bind it on there.

Eventually that limb from the other tree grew to be part of the tree it was bound on. Through this process she had one apple tree that had five different kinds of apples growing on it. That was really cool. That is what grafting means. All those apples that were growing on that tree had the same roots that supplied that same water and minerals from the ground. That is just like the Jews and us. Both of us are parts of the same spiritual tree; both of us are God's people.

The Jews are God's chosen people. The Jewish nation came about because of Abraham's obedience and the promise that God made to Abraham. The Gentiles were added in, grafted in, onto the same root and trunk that they were. We are all a part of God's family, Jews by birth, Gentiles by adoption. (Just to add a note, something to think on here, did you ever think about the fact that Abraham died before he saw God's promise come true. He had many sons and grandsons, and probably great grandsons, and maybe more generations since he died at age 175. His family, though at the time he died, was not considered to be a nation. Can you imagine how he felt when the first person from the nation of Israel walked into

paradise where he was until Jesus came? Can you imagine how he felt when he first met his great, great, great, ever so many greats grandson, Jesus? I am sure that he remembered God's promise to him that out of his seed the world would be blessed when Jesus led those who accepted him out of captivity and into heaven. I am sure that when he reached heaven he was one of the ones who praised God the loudest.)

Well, we have established that Paul knew a lot about the Abrahamic Covenant. He had inherited both sides of it, the born into it side, and the adopted side. He taught a lot about it. So let's look at his life and see if he actually possessed the blessing that people today preach as being a part of the Abrahamic Covenant. What kind of life did he have? Did he actually possess the Abrahamic blessing? Let's read an account of what he went through as a minister. In this section of scripture in 2 Corinthians 11:18-30 Paul is writing in response to some people that were bragging, and acting like they were more important to the people than he was. He answered them by saying that they needed to bear with him in his folly and hear his bragging for a while. These are the things that he bragged about. "Are they ministers of Christ? (I

speaking as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.”

You know, if you read about what Paul experienced through the rose tinted glasses of the evangelists, ministers, and TV preachers that preach the Abrahamic Covenant in the mixed up way that it is sometimes preached, then I could imagine them saying this sort of things. “You know that guy really is going through some terrible things. I don’t believe that God is

blessing his ministry. How could he be doing God's will? He must be doing something wrong because he is going through such problems. The Abrahamic Covenant is not working for him at all." Can't you just hear them. (You think we have problems, hey all I was crying over was my green beans. Compared to Paul, we really have no problems at all.)

I believe that there are a lot of Christians; there are a lot of ministers, who are made to feel defeated because they are going through a battle. I believe that they hear other people, and the enemy tells them these comments that I made in the last chapter and they feel so defeated that they just give up. Every time they face a battle, it knocks them down and out. That is why God led me to write this book. We are going to talk about the reality found in the Abrahamic Covenant. We are going to turn that defeat into victory.

So what gives? We know that The Abrahamic Covenant is true. Paul knew it was true. But look at what he went through. Does that mean that it isn't true, or does it mean that maybe we are looking at it all wrong because some greedy, money hungry preachers are using it as a bait to

draw well meaning contributors to give to their ministries. I have been connected with a ministry for over 30 years. I have seen a lot. There are certain messages that money hungry preachers preach. These messages are “feel good messages” that hype people up so that they are all excited about giving. These messages are often prosperity messages that talk about what God gives us, but not about the sacrifice. These are messages that talk about promises and covenants, but not about what obedience is required on our part to unlock those promises. These preachers know exactly how to push people’s buttons to get them to give. They are well schooled, and I think that the devil anoints them to deceive people to keep them away from the fullness of the truth of God’s Word. He doesn’t want people to grow strong and fruitful. He wants to keep them weak on a junk food diet. You see the most dangerous deceptions that the devil comes up with are those that are very close to the truth. What you read when I explained The Abrahamic Covenant in that first chapter is true. It comes from God’s Word, scriptures that I quoted. But it isn’t the whole truth. There is a lot more to it, and because of that, the truth that is there is distorted. It is like when you look at one

corner of a picture, and think that you know what the whole picture is just from looking at that one corner. You only know what the picture is truly about when you see the whole thing. This is an important thing to remember when you are studying scripture. Ask God to show you the whole picture. Don't be guilty of only studying out part of the picture. If you do, then you will die spiritually because you will only be getting the junk food. When you hear preaching, study out the whole picture. Ask God to show you the whole picture. Don't just listen to preaching, and fail to get out your Bible and study, and ask God's Spirit to reveal to you and anoint the Word. If you just hear man, and not God, then you will spiritually die.

So let's go on and start viewing the whole picture. Coming up next. The full story of my garden. Or you could say, "How to plant beans in a famine and still get a harvest." Or Abaham's Covenant revealed.

Chapter 3. The Abrahamic Covenant Revealed.

I gave you a little glimpse in chapter 1 of me standing in a sun baked bean patch with wilted plants whose leaves had been eaten up to look like lace. Then I gave you a little glimpse toward the end of that chapter of me canning 35 quarts of green beans. What happened between point A and point B you probably were asking yourself. How did that harvest come in? I am going to give you some steps that took place for that harvest to come.

1. I had to really know God, and have a real relationship with Him. I had to have a “walking with and talking with” relationship with God. If I hadn’t have had that, the whole thing wouldn’t have happened. I would have missed it all. Abraham had this. We know that he had a relationship with God that was real. God spoke to him, and he listened and obeyed. Abraham knew God, and walked with Him. That encouraged his faith. He knew God, so His trust got him through those times of doubt. He didn’t spend a lot of time all caught up criticizing himself. He spent a lot of time instead praising God. I had to do the same. If I hadn’t trusted God, I wouldn’t

have even planted a garden. Also, when things started turning out so bad, I talked to God, or rather He talked to me, and let me know to hold on. To be honest with you, if that wouldn't have happened, I would probably have ripped those plants out of the ground in disgust. But since God had spoken to me about my garden, I knew that He was up to something, and I didn't act in despair, but in trust I kept pressing on.

2. I had to know God's promises in His Word. I also had to know that His promises are not always seen right away. When we stood in my garden talking about the Abrahamic Covenant and how it wasn't working, I looked past how things looked at that moment, and decided to keep pressing on, keep trying, because God was able to bless me anyway in spite of what things looked like at that moment. Abraham knew that God's promises are not always seen right away. He died not seeing most of the promises that God gave him. Wow, that is huge. I am sure that there were times when he was tempted to say, "God, where is my promise? How are my children going to bless the whole world? How is my family going to become a mighty nation? I just don't see it." He was a man just like us. That was seen when he laughed when God

told him at their age that they would have a child. Just like you when you are going through a battle, I think that there were times when he doubted. But he didn't let his doubt dictate what he did.

2. I had to plant my garden to get a blessing. I want to tell you that it was a really hot summer. I remember that I would get up at 6:00 when the sun first came up because it was so hot that by 9:00 in the morning, I couldn't work outside. Sometimes I worked when it was hotter even though I got sick from the heat. It wasn't easy, but if I wouldn't have worked in spite of how hard the labor was, would I have gotten a harvest? Sometimes we are spoiled people. A lot of times people want an easy blessing, but they don't want to go out of their way, upset their schedule, or do any work. They want to do their own little thing, but they want to see God bless what they do. They don't want to have to suffer, but they want the blessing. That is why the easy version of the Abrahamic Covenant is so popular. Is that how it really is when you serve God? Ask Paul when you get to heaven?

Also, people often want God to anoint or bless what they are doing, but they don't have a clue as to what God wants done. They are a lot like Saul when he persecuted the church before God turned his life around and called him Paul. Saul was delivering Christians to be killed, all the while thinking that he was doing what God wanted him to do. Can you imagine how Saul felt when God spoke to him from heaven and blinded him, and he realized how wrong he had been? Are you doing what you are doing because you know that God is leading you? Or are you doing what you want to do, hoping God will bless you? Are you obeying God step-by-step, day-to-day, or are you doing what you think He wants you to do? Maybe it is time to pray through on this. Contrary to popular belief, if you obey God, it doesn't mean that everything will work out perfectly from then on. But if you don't obey God, the things that work out easy won't be worth anything at all. It will be like the straw and wheat that get burned up at judgment. It will be worthless, and will accomplish nothing.

We already discussed earlier all that Paul went through. Was he obeying God? Did God use him? We know the answers to both of those questions. Matter of fact, I

am a firm believer that if someone's ministry is being totally financially blessed, and they are not going through a battle, then that person is more than likely being used by the devil, and instead of fighting him, the devil is blessing him. So when you are going through a battle, it may be because God is using you and the devil wants to mess you up. So back to our subject, we have to obey God to get a blessing. We have to know Him and follow His voice to be able to obey Him. We have to plant the garden to get the harvest. We have to plant it when and how He says to get it to work out. We have to do the work that is involved. It isn't easy. If we take the easy way, it more often than not is not God's way. His way is often the hard way.

3. I had to push on past discouragement. Both Abraham and Saul knew about that. When Abraham was traveling on his long, hard journey, I am sure that there were times as he faced things he had to face that he just wanted to settle down and forget it. When Paul went through all he had to go through, I am sure that there were times when he felt the same way. And I know that there isn't a comparison between what I went through with my garden and what they went through, but I had to push

through discouragement as well. We had gone through a rough gardening year the year before, and I had almost not planted a garden at all. I had to push past discouragement just to plant my garden. Then after things started getting bad, there were several times when I was so disgusted I was ready to rip those puny plants up.

In our ministry, there have been many times when the battle was so bad that we wanted to quit. There were many, many times when it was worse right before the victory broke through. The devil is a master at getting people to quit. He will make things darkest right before the dawn. He will try to shake you at your roots to make you turn lose right before the victory comes. Just hold on. The promises will come. They may not come when you think they should, but just in time they will be there. I'll say this again, they will be there just in time. This thing isn't instant like the prosperity preachers preach it. It involves commitment. It involves making a priority of serving God. It involves hanging in there through it all with God given strength, when all you have left is His strength because your own strength has long ago been used up. It means that no matter what you have

to go through, you are holding on until you see the fruit of those promises. Abraham did. That is when he began to see his covenant being fulfilled.

4. We touched on this in an earlier section, but it deserves a whole section to itself. We have to obey God to see His blessings. We have God's Word for this. Joshua 1:8 tells us, "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." Matthew 7:21 says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Revelations 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." I am convinced that the scriptures say plainly that we will not receive our blessings if we are not obedient. I am also convinced that we will not receive our eternal blessings if we are not obedient. I am convinced that heaven will not be our home if we are not obedient.

I am also convinced that it is very necessary to obey both the written Word of God, and what He speaks in your heart. I can most assuredly say that I would not be alive today if I had to obeyed God. I can also say that I would not be able to effectively do what I do for the Lord, if I had not obeyed what He has spoken to me to do. We have to have a real relationship with God. We have to know Him. Prayer is not just about talking “at” Him, but it is about talking “to” Him. It is about having a continual relationship with Him, not just having a relationship with Him that we can turn on and off whenever we feel like it. Prayer involves worshipping, and it involves listening as much as it involves just telling God things we want. It involves listening as He tells us what He wants just as much. If we don’t listen we can’t really serve God. I am not just talking to preachers, evangelists, etc, here, but I am talking to every child of God. God has called us all to every day be used by Him. If you want real peace in your life, then serve Him for real. When you wake up in the morning ask Him to use you through the day. Listen to Him, and do what He says. It will turn your world upside down.

Just a thought, if Abraham had not obeyed God, would there even be an Abrahamic Covenant?

Back to my green beans, if I hadn't listened to God, I wouldn't have gotten my miracle, and I wouldn't have written this book which I believe God is using to bless and instruct you. To receive the blessings of God you have to obey God.

5. You have to look beyond the natural to the supernatural. I had to look beyond my puny plants to see in the Spirit to be able to have a harvest. Abraham had to look beyond the weakness of his and Sarah's flesh to have a child. If you don't get out of the flesh and walk in the Spirit, then you won't receive the true blessings of God. You have to walk in the Spirit to even see the blessings of the Spirit. They are spiritual; they aren't there in the flesh. For more about how to walk in the Spirit, please read my book that is titled *Walking in the Spirit* which you can find on www.amazon.com, or online at www.freechristianonlinebooks.com. I am not trying to sell a book here, but this topic is more than I can cover here.

For more scriptures about walking in the Spirit, see Romans 8. In the final verses of Romans 7, Paul talks about how he just can't do what he needs to do. In Romans 8, he tells how he can anyway. He talks about how we can do what we need to do in spite of ourselves by walking in the Spirit instead of the flesh. Our flesh is at enmity with God, it is an enemy, to God. Our fleshly thinking can't see beyond our nose. We see only what can be seen. We can walk in the Spirit by yielding our flesh to the Spirit of God inside of us, and letting him control our mind, and our body. This is the only way that we can truly serve God.

6. You have to look to God, not to your circumstances for your blessing. I had to look to God not to my garden for my blessing. Abraham had to look to God to inherit his promises.

7. I had to lay hold of my promises and refuse to let go. Abraham had to lay hold of his promises, and refuse to let go.

8. I had to rebuke the enemy. Those Japanese beetles and the deer were devourers. They were devouring my garden before I could even get a taste of it. The enemy is behind things that come to

devour our blessings. Whether those blessings are financial blessings, health, peace of mind, joy, victory, whatever those blessings are, the enemy will try to devour them before we can taste them.

The Bible tells us that we are given power over the enemy, that we can rebuke the enemy in the name of Jesus. We can plead the blood of Jesus over our gardens, natural and spiritual, and we can take authority over him. There were some physical things that I had to do to rebuke the enemy. In this case the Japanese beetles and the deer were the physical enemy, but the devil was the spiritual enemy who was sending them to devour my garden. Physically God showed me some things that I could do. Twice a day, I would pick the Japanese beetles off of my vines. I had honeybee hives, so I couldn't spray them. I didn't want spray on them, besides. So every day I picked them off. It didn't seem to help much, because five minutes after I picked them off, they were back, but I did what I could. I did my part. As far as the deer, we had an ultrasonic deer deterrent that we used. They had gotten used to it somewhat, and weren't responding to it like they had been, but we

tried what we could. Also, my husband's shot gun was a deer deterrent as well.

Physically we did what we could. But the real battle was a spiritual battle that we couldn't see, against an enemy that we couldn't see. Often we forget this. We take care of business in the physical, but fail to take care of business in the spiritual. When we do this, the enemy sneaks in and carries off our harvest using whatever he can to do it. God gives us authority over the enemy. When we fail to take our authority, he will sneak in and carry off our harvest. When we plead the blood of Jesus, when we say, "Satan, the blood of Jesus covers my garden, and you have to leave it alone", the Bible says that he has to leave it alone. When we tell him, "Satan, in the name of Jesus, you have to leave this alone", the Bible says that he has to leave it alone. The enemy doesn't have to listen to us, but the blood of Jesus, and the name of Jesus put up a barrier that he can't argue against. He may keep trying, but when we keep rebuking, he has to go. We just have to make our stand and stand until he flees.

It is important to remember that the devil is an enemy. When we rebuke him, we have

to do it like we mean business. We have to do it like we have the authority, to chase him away, and we know that he has to go. We have to be angry that he is messing in our garden. When we chased the deer out of our garden, we didn't do it gently. We ran them out angrily, and they knew we meant business. We chased the devourer out, and they knew that we had a right. They listened and they ran. We can't tell the devil gently to get out. We have to be angry that he is there eating up our blessings, and we have to mean business when we chase him out. We have to stand against him. We have to let him know that we know he has to go, and expect him to move.

Also, the Holy Ghost rebukes the devil. I have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, which is a gift that God gives us. One of the blessings of that gift is that it supplies us with extra power to overcome, and to stand against the power of satan. I speak in tongues. This is a gift that the Bible talks about. I will be praying, and the Holy Ghost will start interceding through me, and He will begin to rebuke that devourer. When He does, it is with such power and authority, that the enemy has to flee. God knows how to chase the devil off of His

property. Let Him rebuke the devil. For more information on the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, see my book about it. If you don't have this gift, it is vital, and it is given to God's people to help them to overcome.

All these things are how I went from seeing the battle to seeing the harvest. It is my prayer as you read this that you take it to heart and that you see your harvest as well.

So what about the blessings? Isn't the Abrahamic Covenant all about blessings? When we look at all Paul went through how can we think that he even got a blessing at all? Keep reading to solve this mystery.

Chapter 4. So Did Paul Inherit the Abrahamic Covenant?

That is a good question, did Paul inherit the Abrahamic Covenant. Go back to chapter 2 and reread all he went through. I won't write it here again. He went through terrible trials and problems. One thing that I didn't mention, because it wasn't named in that section of scripture, was that history has recorded that Paul was beheaded. Seemingly he died a horrible death. So is all the stuff that he wrote about blessings not true because he went through bad things. Is that so? Let's read a little more that Paul himself had to say about the subject.

Here are some scriptures that Paul wrote. Romans 8:35-39 says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things

to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” What about this section of scriptures that Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

I believe that part of the reason why Paul went through the things that he went through was because he was able to write to us about how to go through trials. I can't count how many times that Paul's words

have kept me and strengthened my faith when I was going through my trials and battles. Look how many people through time have been the same way. If he had never faced these, how could he help us through our trials? It may be the same with all of us. How can we help others if we don't ever go through things? One of the main times that people around us see the Word of God displayed, is when we overcome trials that we face, and they see this victory. You may be the only Bible that some people ever read. The time that they will be watching you the closest is when you face hardships, and come out with the victory. That gives them hope that they can do the same if they give their life to God.

Paul also learned this in his struggles. We read about it in II Corinthians 12:7-10. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power

of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." It was through his weaknesses, and through all he faced, that he learned the greatest lesson, a key to anyone who wants to do something for the Lord. He learned that God's grace is sufficient for us, and that our strength really comes in our weakness, because it is then that we realize that the only way we can really do what we need to do for God, is when we give up and let God do it through us. He also learned this found in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Paul didn't brag about what he could do, but about what **He** could do through him.

And what is Paul's prayer for you. That you find this promise written in Colossians 1:9-13, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk

worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

I am convinced that it is not through our blessings that we come to understand God and His love and power toward us. I am convinced that it is through the trials and the battles that we truly begin to see how great God is, and how great His love is for us. I think that it is through overcoming that we see how great God is and how small we are, and we see His great grace toward us. Through facing our weaknesses, we see how great His strength is, and what we can do through Him.

So did Paul inherit the Abrahamic Covenant? Was it at work in his life? Throughout his ministry, we see how God’s hand was on him. Until the time that God

ordained for his departure, Paul lived, in spite of the many attempts against his life. When he obeyed God, God protected him. Just in time, he had what he needed to make it through. God's hand and His anointing was on Paul mightily. We see evidence of that today, thousands of years later when we read the words that he wrote, and they light a fire in our spirits. Isn't all this part of the Abrahamic Covenant?

Sometimes we look for a preconceived blessing. We think that certain things are blessings, and if we don't see these certain things, we think God isn't blessing us, our life, our work, or our ministry. Often we think of a blessing being in terms of finances. We think that if we are having a financial struggle in our family, or in our ministries, that God is not blessing us. We are brain washed to think that way by the many ministers that preach it that way so that we will give. Believe me, we have all kinds of blessings that have nothing to do with finances. I have had more times in my personal life when I have struggled financially, than times when I have been blessed. I have had some times in my life when God supernaturally blessed my finances in a huge way. I can tell you that

the hardest times were those times when God blessed me in a huge way. When I struggled with my finances, I trusted God. He supernaturally supplied all my needs. I would ask, and He would supply. Sometimes it was just like Elijah by the brook when the ravens fed him one bite at a time, but He took care of me still. Those times when he wasn't there in that special way was when I had a lot of money. I wasn't relying on him, but on the abundance he had supplied. It was harder for me, because I enjoyed him leading me step by step as he led me through the valley. Sometimes the blessing isn't a huge financial miracle, but the day-to-day touch as He leads you through. Isn't that the Abrahamic Covenant?

I have gone through valleys of sickness. He was there to strengthen me until the day that He healed me. During that time He used that sickness to work many things in my life. I know that the enemy caused my sickness, not God, but still He used it to work so much in me that I praised Him through it all. I have gone through times of great loss when I lost so many people that I was close to that I started going through something that was a lot like PTSD. I would panic when I heard an ambulance

thinking someone else I knew was sick. When anyone was sick, the devil tried to put a fear on me that they would die, too. When I figured out who was the author of this, and put my foot on his head, then this panic stopped. During all that time of loss, I learned what it means when God says the Holy Ghost is our comforter, and I learned what it means when the scripture declares, Death where is thy sting. Oh grave, where is your victory. I learned even more that ALL things work together for the good of those who love the Lord and who are called according to His purpose. Praise God, isn't that the Abrahamic Covenant?

Which gives a greater praise to God, never having had a drought, or Japanese beetles in your garden, or having a garden that is destroyed by both bearing beautiful fruit, and an excellent abundant harvest? Isn't that the Abrahamic Covenant? Which gives greater praise, never having sickness, or rising up above it all to declare God's healing? Never going through a battle, or overcoming all that the devil puts in your faith to declare that God is able to keep us through it all?

Read the heroes of faith chapter found in Hebrews chapter 11. Please read it. I

won't write it all out here, and you won't see what I am saying if you don't get out your Bible and read it. (Just a note, whenever you read a book, this one, or any book, get out your Bible and read the scriptures that are given. Don't just read the reference. That is a good thing to do to be sure that you are not led astray by what is written. Test it out with your Bible. Also, you will get much more out of it if you read not only that verse, but the connecting verses as well.) Read Hebrews 11. There you will find that many of those people went through terrible things. But they were listed here and eternally recognized as people who had a mighty faith.

I have gone through good times and I have gone through bad. It wasn't the good times that grew my faith, but the bad. I didn't have to use my faith in the good times at all. The devil comes around and tells us when we are going through a battle that this is happening because there is something wrong with our faith. No, we are making it through that battle because there is something right with our faith. We may be having a battle because, like these heroes of faith, we are doing something for the Lord. We are obeying the Lord, and the devil hates us for that. Hebrews 12:39-40

tells us, “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” They didn’t receive their promise on earth, because God had a better thing for them. Isn’t that also the Abrahamic Covenant? When I get to heaven, one of the main people that I want to find is Paul. I want to thank him for how God used him in my life. I don’t know if I would have made it through without all those letters that he wrote to those long ago churches whose members I don’t know. You know he never got to physically see the Bible with his letters as a part. He sure has talked to a lot of people that read them, though. Did he get to partake in the Abrahamic Covenant? After reading all this evidence, what do you think?

Closing

I hope that you have learned a lot through this little book. I hope that one important thing that you have learned is not to get caught up or carried away in what TV or worldwide evangelists preach. Especially those who speak often about giving money, and how God will bless you if you give. I have been in church most of my life, and traveling in a ministry, or part of a ministry for the last 35 years. I can tell you that in all that time, there have been very, very few times when a message was given out directly from the Lord where someone said, "I believe that God has told me for you to give a certain amount of money. If you do, He has said that He would bless you." You know why I think that God doesn't often do that. Because there are so many crooked preachers out there that do this that God knows that if He does move in this way, then no one will believe that it is Him.

The Abrahamic Covenant isn't all about money. Nor is it all about instant miracles, and an easy life with nothing to go through. It is about commitment, faith, trust, walking and talking with God, obeying Him in spite of the battle, believing Him and trusting in

Him in spite of how things look in the natural. It is about warfare, standing up against the enemy that tries to destroy you because you are inheriting God's blessings, and it is about knowing when you lay hold on those promises, that in spite of the battle, they will be yours. It is about laying hold of your promises, and never letting go, even if it means that you won't see the blessings of that promise until you reach heaven. It is about the power we find when we can't, and we still know that He can, and He will in spite of our weakness of our flesh, and what we see in the natural. It is about knowing that in spite of what things look like in the natural, we have promises to the contrary, and we hold on to those promises until we see in the natural what we saw in the Spirit long before our eyes beheld it. The Abrahamic Covenant isn't an easy, watered down promise, but it was born when a man named Abraham whose faith was tested severely, endured to receive his promise. Through God's Spirit, we can do the same.

I pray that you lay hold of these promises. I pray that you seek God until you know that the Abrahamic Covenant is your covenant too, and you know the fullness of the blessings that this holds for you.

About the Author

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