

Faith's Promises

The Life of Abraham—part 5

July 5, 2026

Genesis 15:1-6

Reviewing our series on Abraham:

- Wk 1: The Beginnings of Faith
- Wk 2: Faith's Tent and Altar
- Wk 3: Faith's Choices
- Wk 4: Faith's Fight

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

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

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

⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness,

The word of the Lord

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision...

Genesis 15:4 Then the word of the Lord came to him...

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Do not be afraid

*Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "**Do not be afraid**, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."*

Fear is the emotional result when outcomes
we are depending on are uncertain.

I am your shield and very great reward

*Genesis 15:1 ...Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your very great reward**."*

Shield—

No matter what happens to me,
I am still intact as a person.

Reward—

Genesis 15:2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

It is not the outcome that ultimately matters.
The character of God is of top importance.

The promise: words and images

Genesis 15:2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Genesis 15:4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

Genesis 15:5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

*Galatians 3:7 Understand, then, that **those who have faith are children of Abraham**.⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*

Faith that aligns our life

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Philippians 3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.