

# GENESIS 15 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH - ([SERMON MP3](#))

**Abram chose to resist the temptation of Sodom's riches in both chapters 13 and 14 of Gen..** In response, he received another vision of the Lord. God told Abram not to be afraid (Gen. 15:1).

- *When you resist the hook-laden offers of the world, what natural fears do people like you and me face (Gen. 15:1)? What kind of questions linger in the back of our minds when we say "no" to the world (Gen. 14:21-24)?*
- *Reflect on what the Lord said about Himself in (Gen. 15:1). He would be Abram's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. What did each statement mean?*
- *What implications should it have had on Abram's actions earlier in his life? Consider how God as a shield would have impacted Abram in (Gen. 12:12, 17; 14:20). Consider how God as a rewarder would have impacted Abram in (Gen. 13:12; 14:22-23).*
- *Now, what implications should this revelation of God have on your life? How have you said, "no thanks" to the offers of the world in favor of God's reward? Is the Lord your shield (Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 84:11-12) and rewarder (Hebrews 11:6)? What difference does that make in your life? Be prepared to share an example with your discussion group.*

**In (Gen. 15:2), Abram asks God a question about his heir.** Can you really blame him for that? What do you do when you don't see God's work moving forward according to his promises? Sometimes we wonder if we are supposed to act instead of wait. We waver between hoping for a supernatural miracle and expecting a "normal," realistic alternative. An infertile couple might assume that God's provision is adoption rather than defying medical odds (and they might be right). A person in financial crisis might assume God will deliver through the normal means of hard work and a lot of time (and that might be right). But God could also provide through a sudden, unexpected windfall by unusual means. We struggle knowing what to expect and hope for because God works in both ways. Perhaps we could say, faith isn't a matter of turning off our brains, but it is also not a matter of ruling out supernatural, dramatic, mind-boggling miracles.

- *How can we effectively live in the tension of knowing that God will intervene and fulfill his promises but wondering exactly how?*
- *What do you do when you're pulled between "rational" solutions and supernatural interventions? Perhaps you could share an example of each in your life.*
- *Is it wrong to ask God for reassurances of His promises (Gen. 15:2-3, 8)? Why or why not?*
- *Can you think of any other biblical examples of men or women who asked for reassurances? Check out (Judges 6:36-40; 2Kings 20:8-11; Luke 1:18-20) for help. Do you think Abram's question was faithless or faithful? Is it unbelief to ask for a sign?*

**The Jews held that Abram's faith was the greatest of his many meritorious works that earned his righteous status before God.** Rabbi Shemaiah (50 BC) wrote, "Our father Abraham became the heir of this and the coming world simply by the merit of the faith with which he believed in the Lord, as it is written: 'He believed in the Lord, and he counted it to him for righteousness.'" In contrast to this view, Paul asserted that Abraham was an example of someone who received righteousness by faith apart from works (Romans 4:1-25).

