

# even if...

faith in the midst of life's "what if" moments

## Genesis 15:7-10 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord told him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession." <sup>8</sup> But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?" <sup>9</sup> The LORD told him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side...

Entering into covenant with God connects us to His limitless [STRENGTH](#).

**Romans 8:31b (NLT)**  
If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

## Genesis 15:12-18 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him. <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. <sup>14</sup>But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. <sup>15</sup>(As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) <sup>16</sup>After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction. <sup>17</sup>After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. <sup>18</sup>So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, 'I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River...

Entering into covenant with God connects us to His unending [FAITHFULNESS](#).

**Hebrews 10:23 (NLT)**  
Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

## Genesis 17:3b-7 (NLT)

<sup>3b</sup>Then God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! <sup>5</sup>What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them! <sup>7</sup>I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

Entering into covenant with God reshapes our [IDENTITY](#).

Abram = "exalted father"  
Abraham = "father of many"

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 [NLT]

...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

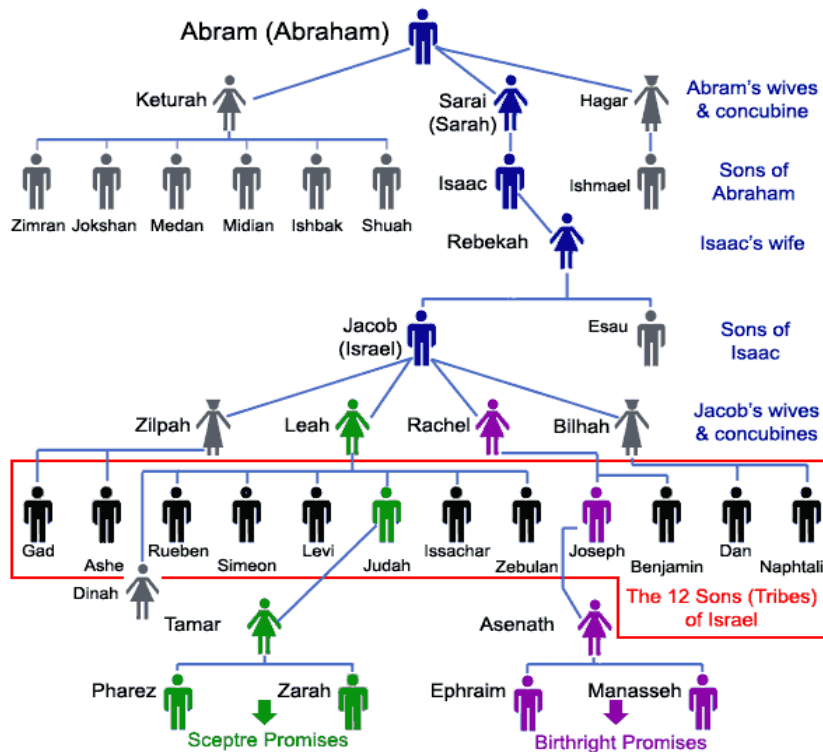
## SO WHAT?

:: Step into [COVENANT](#) with Jesus!

:: Remember God's past [FAITHFULNESS](#).

:: Be mindful of how God demonstrates His [LOVE](#) for you.





## NOTES:

***“On the day God instituted his covenant with Abraham, he changed his name to signify the certainty of his future. God renamed Abraham as a way of pointing him in a specific direction for his life... of what could be and what would be.”***

- Andy Stanley

## How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life.  
In Your name, Amen.***

## For Further Reflection:

:: Discuss the Biblical concept of covenant.

:: What do you find most encouraging/challenging about this?

:: What are some of the similarities and differences between the covenant God made with Abraham and the covenant God offers to us through Jesus?

:: Review the first covenant snapshot. [read all of Genesis 15]

:: What initially stands out to you? Why?

:: How does knowing that we have access to God's strength help us move from 'what if' to 'even if'?

:: What are your thoughts regarding God's decision to take the role of the 'servant/vassal' and walk through the sacrifice in Abraham's place? What does that communicate about His character? What are the ways that this foreshadows the ministry of Jesus?

:: How does the reminder of God's faithfulness help us move from 'what if' to 'even if'?

:: Review the second covenant snapshot. [read Genesis 17: 1-14]

:: What initially stands out to you? Why?

:: Discuss Abraham's name change. Why is this significant for him? What does this communicate to you about God?

:: How does our identity in Christ help us deal with identity based 'what if' questions?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].  
Josh Howard (@joshhoward77) – January 12 & 13, 2019

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