

even if...

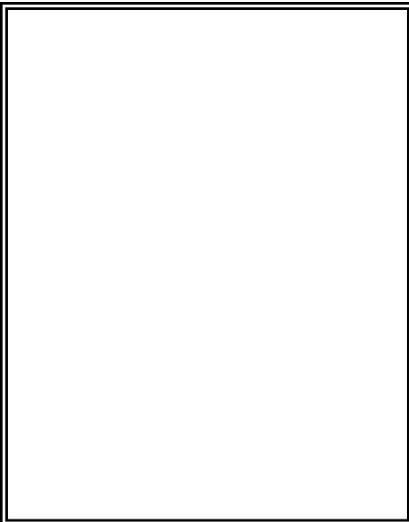
faith in the midst of life's "what if" moments

Genesis 15:2-5

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."

God always KEEPS
His promises!



Genesis 18:10-12

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Genesis 17:17

Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

**"What if" questions can become
"WHATEVER"/"EVEN IF" statements.**

Genesis 18:13-15

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Hebrews 11:1 [NIRV]

¹ Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Jeremiah 32:27 [ESV]

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

**God will fulfill what He has promised in
HIS TIMING and HIS WAY.**

Genesis 21:1-3

¹ Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

SO WHAT?

**Where is God inviting you to wait by faith
for what CAN BE?**

Now: _____

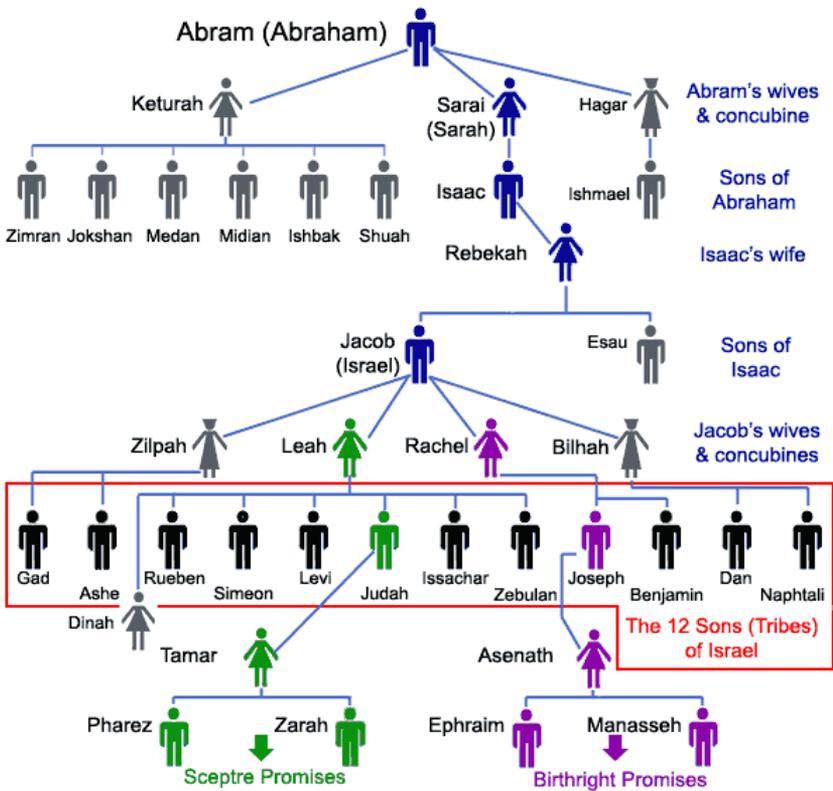
Next: _____

Psalms 119:50

*My comfort in my suffering
is this: Your promise
preserves my life.*

2 Corinthians 1:20a

*For no matter how many
promises God has made,
they are "Yes" in Christ.*



NOTES:

"God never made a promise that was too good to be true."

- D. L. Moody



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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:

:: Identify/Share one thing God has been teaching or re-teaching you through the “Even if...” series to this point.

:: *Waiting is part of life. Identify different times & places we have to wait.*

:: *Share a time you waited well.*

:: *Share a time you didn't wait well.*

:: *Reflect on Abraham & Sarah's journey of “waiting” for a child.*

:: *What did they do well? Not so well?*

:: *What did God do in response to those moments? Why?*

:: *How can their experience help us in our own waiting spaces?*

:: *Pastor Shawn said, “The only one who can thwart God's purpose in your life is you.”*

:: *Discuss what that means.*

:: *Identify some implications of that reality in our daily choices.*

:: *Share a time you saw that happen in your life or someone else's.*

:: *In what area(s) of your life are you currently most tempted to focus on asking “what if...” rather than simply declaring “even if...”?*

:: *What is the next thing God is inviting you to do to move past asking “what if...” to declaring “even if...”?*

:: *Identify 1 person you can ask to pray for you as you step out and do that.*

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – January 19 & 20, 2019

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