

KEEP ON BELIEVING

Pastor, Ken Ritz * July 24, 2011 * New Life Vineyard Church

God does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what He is doing. Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)

HOW TO KEEP ON BELIEVING WHILE YOU'RE WAITING ON GOD

Romans 4:17-20

1. Understand the Six Phases of Faith

PHASE 1: A DREAM (Age 75)

(God) "I will make you into a great nation..." Genesis 12:1-3

PHASE 2: DECISION

So Abraham went, as the Lord had told him... Genesis 12:4

PHASE 3: DELAY (Age 86)

Now Sarah, Abraham's wife, had borne him no children... Genesis 16:1

PHASE 4: DIFFICULTY (Age 100)

How could I become a father at the age of 100? Genesis 17:17 (NLT)

PHASE 5: DEAD END

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Genesis 22:2

PHASE 6: DELIVERANCE!

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Genesis 22:12-14

2. Remember _____

Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. Romans 4:17 (NLT)

3. Rely on _____

When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith...He relied on the word of God... Romans 4:18 (Ph)

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead. Hebrews 11:17-19 NLT

He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Genesis 22:5

Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be fulfilled... he did become the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised. Rom. 4:18 (JB)

4. Recognize _____

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead...and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief... Romans 4:19-20

5. Expect _____

Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything He promised. Romans 4:20-21 (LB)

But this happened so we might not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He has delivered us... and He will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us... 2 Corinthians 1:9,10

3 Kinds of Deliverance

(1) Circumstantial (2) Personal (3) Ultimate (Heaven)

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*