

## Abraham's patient faith

*faith*

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**Bible Text:** Hebrews 11:9-10

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And I must run over to Hebrews chapter number 11 and we will see what God has for us tonight. And, of course, we are doing a series on Hebrews chapter dealing with faith, amen? And I pray tonight God will show us some things that will help us in our walk with him. Amen? Amen.

All right. Once you get to chapter 11 let's read verses nine and 10. And then we will pray. So let's all stand as we give reverence and respect to God's holy Word.

Good to see so many out tonight. Amen. House is full and we thank God for that. Amen. You wouldn't have come if you didn't want to get something to death, amen. So God has, no doubt, some portions on our plates tonight. Now there will be some things on the plate {?} but it is going to help us, amen.

All right. Let's read chapter 11 of Hebrews verse number nine and verse 10 and we will pray and ask God for his mighty help.

The Bible says in verse number nine of chapter 11 of Hebrews.

By faith he [Abraham] sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.<sup>1</sup>

We want to talk tonight on this little thought. Abraham's patient—and that is a cuss word in church—patient faith.

*Father, I pray tonight for your Holy Ghost help. I pray God you will breath up on us in a unique way, a life changing way. I pray, God, that you will show us as we look at Abraham as an example of someone that had patient faith. And I pray, God, that tonight each of us would also understand that there will be times where we are called to be patient as we trust you to begin to work things out for us on our behalf. I pray God*

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 11:9-10.

*tonight that someone will find encouragement. I pray, God, that some one will find some strength. I pray, God, that someone would begin to die to self and begin to live for the Savior. I pray, God, you would clean our hearts. I pray God you would clean our minds and our eyes and our ears and help us to hear your voice when you speak to our hearts. And I pray, God, whatever you say for us to do, we won't say maybe or I am going to think about it, but I pray, God, we will simply do this, Lord, to shout out yes, yes, our Father, yes. I will do what you have me to do. Yes, I will surrender my life over to you, because you know how to direct my life that will lead to victory after victory, after victory, which means this. That must be our battle {?} but at the same time I am going to win, I am going to win. And with that God will shout hallelujah. I pray God that one tonight that might be overwhelmed in their thoughts because of situations that has surrounded them as a wagon surrounds, as Indians surround the wagons. I pray, God, that tonight, though, they find out that there is relief. {?} hallelujah Holy Ghost power is on its way {?} bring victory and that {?} hallelujah. I pray, God, we would all stay focused and as we prayed before and we thank everybody for being so more attentive and there was a lot of walking around last Sunday which was tremendous. And you were able to really speak to our hearts and I pray, God, we would do that once again tonight. I pray, God, we would listen to your Word. Let's not be distracted, for we see the victory that is available for each of your children and for that God, we will shout again.*

*Well, Lord, we had better stop here. We love you. We owe you everything and it is in your Son's mighty name we do pray, not a weak Jesus, but a mighty Jesus. Amen. Amen.*

You may be seated. Abraham's patient faith. A lot of times we have the word patient. A lot of us we begin to tremble and we fall out and go into spasms of stuff. But at the same time God teaches us that we need to have patience, amen? I don't just simply react, but at the same time listen to what God has for us to do and to follow his clear directions.

That would patient has a lot of synonyms and some of those is this. It means to be calm. All sort of be long suffering, but I thought of that word calm, to be patient, to be calm. When a person is not calm that means he is acting in a different way. As a matter of fact, some of the antonyms were very interesting that the opposite of patient which is agitated. Yeah, frustrated, unwillingly, intolerant and even impatient. I thought {?}.

A lot of times when we are trying to be patient and watch God do his thing, we sometimes become frustrated. Sometimes we become agitated, amen, or we get antsy. We can't sit still. Like when is God, when is he going to move? What is he saying? And we {?} moving around {?} in our seats. You know, we be squirming around and stuff and we are ready for something to happen. But sometimes God wants us to simply just be still. Be patient. Because God sometimes is moving things into place. He is organizes certain things. And want it to happen today. And the thought just crossed my mind. A lot of times we have lost loved ones. We want them to get saved right this second. And sometimes when we have ... {?} opportunity but sometimes we will press it, you know, for example {?} for example let's say, for example, this Christmas we may have some relatives or family members who are lost or perhaps who are saved, but they are away from God. And we want them to respond. We want them {?} so if we are not careful

when this coming Sunday comes what we will do is this. They will be standing there, the invitation is given and we will {?} and we will be like, you know, why don't you go? Why don't you go? You need to go. You know you need to go. Come on. And you know what? Let's say that they do go. But the only reason why they come is because they are being pressured. Pressure is not the same thing as what the Holy Ghost of God has to deal with that heart.

My dear friends, {?} God, where was your Holy Spirit? I said grab a hold of my loved one's heart. Grab a hold of their mind. Grab a hold of their feet and their head and, God, let them see their need for Jesus Christ, but also see their need for {?} right with God and follow him. Oh, God, that is what we need to be doing at that moment, at that time. Pray that God's Holy Ghost starts to move in that person's life, amen? Being patient.

And we see Abraham {?} as a good example of having patient faith. The Bible says in chapter number 11 verse nine. We will look at verse eight first. We talked about this last Tuesday. The Bible says:

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance...”<sup>2</sup>

The Bible says he did something. What did he do, preacher? He obeyed. God said go and Abraham {?}. The Bible says he obeyed. He conformed to the command and he went out. Watch this.

“...not knowing wither he went.”<sup>3</sup>

That word that means he didn't know. Also it means that he didn't understand where he was going, but God said, “Go,” and he went. And now watch this. The Bible says:

“By faith he sojourned...”<sup>4</sup>

That means he resided.

“...in the land of promise, as in a strange country.”<sup>5</sup>

The Bible says that Abraham resided, the Bible says, in the land of promise, the land in which God had promised him, he was there. But the Bible says but he was like a stranger. Look at what it says. The Bible says here that he was as a strange country, which means not one's own. Dwelling the Bible says,

“...dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 11:8.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Hebrews 11:9.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

The Bible says he is in the Promised Land but yet he is not stabilized or he is not anchored there. He is in {}...

But the Bible says his nephew did something different than he did. He made Sodom his home. He didn't... he wasn't in tents anymore. He got inside of Sodom and he bought him a house. {} but when you buy your house most times you say, "Now wait. This is where I want to be for at least a number of years. I want to stay..." Because that is when you stop renting. So when you are renting that means you may be there six months or you may not be there six months. You know, after six months you may leave or after a year you may leave. You may find somewhere else {}. But once you buy that house you are saying, "Hey, I am anchored here." And that is exactly what his nephew did, Lot. He bought him a house, so to speak in Sodom. He was anchored there. But here we have Abraham on the outskirts, not {} but on the outskirts, over here, my dear friends. But he was in a tent.

When God said move, he was ready to go. The Bible says he was even in the land of promise, but he was like a stranger. The land that God gave him, he was like a stranger. Now watch this. The Bible says in the next verse for he did something different.

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."<sup>7</sup>

He was thinking of something different than something down here. he was looking for something, my dear friends, that was {}, another place where God was the mechanic. He was the one that was the craftsman. He was the one that was the builder and the maker. In other words, he was not looking to get satisfied down here. So a lot of us trying to get satisfied down here. We are living here. We aren't living over there. That is where we are trying to get the biggest house and the {} and all this kind of stuff {}.

Well, my dear friends, you will leave all of that behind. {} If Billy goes to heaven before I get there, he has got him a nice library that needs my attention. You have a good service, but I will be over there the next day and say, "We need to take care of this, Jane." And knowing Jane she says, {}.

But do you know what? All that stuff is staying back here. But this is my question. {} about Canaan down here? Why was he not excited about what God said {} because he got {} that he knew that he was not going to obtain down here, but eh would get it put there.

What are you talking about, preacher?

Let's go for a moment and see why he was so patient. Let's go for a moment and see why, you know, he was walking from tent to tent. He was not {} have this, but I ain't getting it. {} inherit this land, but why am I like a stranger?

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 11:10.

Let's go for a moment to Genesis and then we will be done. Go to Genesis chapter 15 and we are going not see Abraham's patient faith, but we are going to see the backbone of Abraham's faith. When the Bible says back over here in chapter number 15. And when you talk about your backbone you are talking about that which is your strength. It means that the guts, the courage and the determination. What gave him a backbone to be patient? Who gave him the backbone to continue to trust God? We will see over here in chapter number 15 of Genesis, we see, first of all, the disclosure that God had given. The Bible says in verse number one... By the way, God does disclose some things to us. He does. He is not trying to keep you in the dark on some stuff. Watch what the Bible says here. The Bible says:

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.<sup>8</sup>

What is he saying? He says, "You told me earlier in some other chapters that I was going to have ... I was many nations and all this kind of stuff. But I ain't got no child. And the person of my house, my steward, he is the one... his child will be the one that will inherit all of this if I don't have anybody."

Watch this. The Lord {?} in verse four.

And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.<sup>9</sup>

What is he telling us? Abraham, that the promised seed is going to come out of you own body. It will come from your own loins. And look up at them stars. He counted them stars. There is too many to count. Well, that is exactly how your family is going to be. You won't be able to count how many there are. And that is how it is today.

By they way, let me pause here for a second. Sometimes we beat Abraham and we beat Sarah up because when he got Hagar there and had that child by Hagar and so what they was trying to help God out. They was impatient. Now they were not. As far as Abraham knew this could be the child, because that child that he had with Hagar came from where? From his own loins. It came out of Abraham.

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<sup>8</sup> Genesis 15:1-3.

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 15:4-5.

{?} Sarah {?}. Read your Bible. At that particular point in time, as far as we know, Sarah had no idea of what God had told him about the child coming out of her, herself. That comes later on in the following chapter. So sometimes we are throwing somebody {?} and crucify him and we {?}, because it would be her. I {?} what it is. Amen. {?} scrape no horse's mouth and find out the direct information.

The Bible says here, though, my friends, {?} able to count how many they are. And then we see Abraham's direct response, verse six. So he did something, my friends. He doubted the Lord. Oh, I am sorry. He believed, the Bible says, in the Lord. And the Bible says:

“...and he counted it to him for righteousness.”<sup>10</sup>

Abraham believed God's Word. He believed what God said. Let me ask us a question, dear friends, do we believe what God's Word says? Do we believe, my dear friends, that he will keep his promises, he will keep his Word? Do we believe that? Not just in our intellect, but in our hearts, do we believe it? Oh, my. {?} the Bible says he believes.

But then we see Abraham's desire, verse seven and eight. The Bible says:

And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?<sup>11</sup>

He went and got it. {?}. How shall I know this is going to take place?

Then we see, my dear friends {?} then we see the design here of the covenant of the joining up of a covenant between Abraham and God. The Bible says in verse nine.

And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.<sup>12</sup>

What is about to happen? God is about to make a covenant with Abraham. And if we begin to read and study you will find out when there was about to be a covenant made between two, they would have these certain animals and they would have them cut up and they would have them laid on the side there. And what they would do is they would walk between the midst of them which would say, hey, we are bound by this covenant and we both agree to do exactly what we said we would do.

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<sup>10</sup> Genesis 15:6.

<sup>11</sup> Genesis 15:7-8.

<sup>12</sup> Genesis 15:9-11.

So her we have the drawing up. You know what, my dear friends? God has given us a covenant as well. He has given us his holy Word, my friends. Here, listen. I have got promises in this Word. I have got all kinds of things. I have got a lot of goodies. Well, how many of you like goodies? Yeah, I love goodies, amen. I mean he had a lot of goodies in here. Our young people, they have in the junior class what they do is they all get points for the month. They bring their Bible in, bring their friend and the list goes on. And at the end of the month then they get all those points together and those points is like money. And they do, they got a store inside here. Then they go shopping. They get big bags of potato chips and they get snickers and they get what... well, {?}. What else? {?} Mc Donald's gift cards. I {?} But anyhow... you know what my friends? They get so excited about those points and {?} do you know what they do? They do their homework. They do their lesson. They do the things that are required to receive the gifts that are laid before them in the store.

Do you know what my friends? God has got the promises in his holy Word. He says, "You know what? If you do this and you do this, guess what? I am going to give you this." But do you know what we do? God, just give it. I don't want to do them {?}. Right now all kids are good this week. Yeah. Everybody cleaned their room up. And, momma, can I help with the dishes and can I vacuum, can I... what can I do to help out? Because they know Christmas is coming. Gifts are coming. Nobody wants to be naughty. {?} this past year. But they remember. They {?} Well, we can't wait for those gifts. But do you know what? It is so easy for mom and dad to give us stuff. We have been doing what we are supposed to have been doing. We would take out the garbage. What is one of your jobs at home? {?} All right. What do you do? {?} I am chilling out while they are working, man. That means he needs some {?} amen. They got a job to do. They got excited. This girl, what are you all doing in the summer time? They are not home. {?}

I ride by on the expressway and I look down {?} and I see Billy. Hit them leaves {?}.

But anyway, though, but God has some goodies for us and he gives us {?} he makes a covenant here. But then we see before all that takes place we see a horrible dream happens in verse 12. The Bibles says:

"And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him."<sup>13</sup>

It is all like as if he is having a nightmare. I wonder what is this nightmare about. I wonder what has them so horrified. I wonder what has him so afraid. Sometimes we have horrific dreams, because we don't know what is going to happen. We don't know how this is going not take place. We become afraid of... we become frightened, especially if you {?} going down a road we have never traveled down before. Oh, what are we going not do? What is going to happen? And we are afraid. As a matter of fact, that word darkness also figuratively means misery. Have you ever gone to sleep and had misery? I mean just. And {?} tossing, turning and you wake up and you are sweating. Did you ever

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<sup>13</sup> Genesis 15:12.

have a dream when you try to yell and you couldn't yell? I hate that kind of dreams. You got...

You wonder what is up. And you say to yourself, {?} I will be all right.

Sometimes {?} she has dreams and {?} who was that over there? {?} I am {?} is she all right? {?} But sometimes you have them nightmares and here {?} Abraham is having a horrible dream. But then something happens. We see God comes by and the Bible show us how God gives him a divine guarantee which means {?}. Well, the Bible says in verse 14:

“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;”<sup>14</sup>

I am like wait a minute. You are saying that we are going to be strangers in a land that is ours? We are going to be {?} 400 years? Because there is another part above that. The words above that are this. “Know of a surety that thy seed shall be this, but I have got some good stuff coming around the corner.”

He goes on to say this, my friends, in verse 14.

And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.<sup>15</sup>

And then he says:

“But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”<sup>16</sup>

Here, Abraham, this land is going to be yours. But let me tell you what is going to happen first, though. Your seed is going to go into captivity. They are going not be in a land that is theirs, but they are going to be like strangers there. But I want to tell you something, Abraham. They are going to be there, but they are coming out. After 400 years they are coming out of that place. But as for you, though, you are not going to possess that place in you life time. But what I do have for you is this? What is it? What does he show him again? He said in verse number 15.

“And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.”<sup>17</sup>

{?}, but you are going to your fathers in peace. It {?} you are going to go to heaven, go to be with your father in peace.

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<sup>14</sup> Genesis 15:13.

<sup>15</sup> Genesis 15:14-15.

<sup>16</sup> Genesis 15:16.

<sup>17</sup> Genesis 15:15.



Friends, I believe that this is what encouraged him as he traveled. That is why he was out looking for a city out here, but even for another place. It is that when you leave here, you are going at peace to be with your fathers, you will be buried, but {} in peace. So {} Abraham knew, you know what? {} I am not going to see the actual inheritance or rewards of the inheritance take place in my life. But I am going to a better place. But it is still going to happen.

What are you talking about, preacher?

{} that prayed for us. They never saw us get in church while they were alive here, but perhaps God spoke to them and gave them a promise. That child is coming back to the father's house. {} hallelujah.

When Jolene's mom passed away, Jolene, listen, I shouldn't even turn 20 yet. D J was two or three months old. Jolene is out at church. Steve her brother was out of church. They both were living for the enemy and not for the Savior. But they had a praying mom. They had a momma that cried out to God on a regular basis.

Sometimes Jolene told me she would be sitting in the house and she would go past her momma's bedroom and she would hear her in there praying {} prying for Jolene, crying out to God. But do you know what? I would {} holy God, because she had met with the master and the master had confirmed to her heart, it is going to be all right. {} she is severing Jesus Christ. Steve is in the house of God. He is serving the Lord Jesus Christ. {} somebody prayed, somebody got a promise and somebody got some peace. Do you know what we need more of? We need some mommas as well as some daddies to begin to pray over their children. We need some mommas and some daddies to {} to God on their behalf and say, "Oh, God, love when you guys do what I can't do. {} and my life has {} hallelujah.

There are some mommas her today got some children away from God. Pray, pray, pray. Keep on praying and keep on trusting. That is why Abraham had that patient faith, because God had told him, it is going to be {}. I better hurry up. Listen to what it says here. We see the divine guarantee and then we see the dependability of God. Notice. I didn't say Abraham's dependability, but the dependability of God. Here it is. We are almost done. The Bible says at verse 17.... now remember you see at verse 12 the sun was doing down. We see in verse 17:

"And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces."<sup>18</sup>

That is going back, now, my dear friends, to those they was drawing up the covenant and they got all those animals lined up. The Bible says:

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<sup>18</sup> Genesis 15:17.

“...and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”<sup>19</sup>

What is God doing? He is going between those sacrifices. He is going between them is what he is doing. But wait a minute. {?} From our understanding when therefore the covenant made such as this, when they had those animals lined up on the sides like this that they were both brought between there signifying that they both are agreeing to this covenant that they are making. They are both, you know what? You can count on me to keep this. But in this case we have Abraham he is over here sleeping.

Number one, {?} depend on him to keep the covenant. This is God, my dear friends. You just rest. I am making this covenant with you. You can depend on me. Because, see, I won't let you down. Oh, you will let me down. That is why you are on the side, but, see, I am not going to let you down. I am going to walk {?} and I am going to say, “Hey, you can depend on me. {?}” Hallelujah.

Listen. If salvation was dependent on us, who? We are in bad shape. But glory to God it ain't dependent on me. It is dependent upon the Lord Jesus Christ. His death, his burial, his resurrection, amen, his coming back again for {?}.

...come and pray and say, “God, {?}” God works it out. {?} Something happens. You are riding down the road. All of the sudden you see these lights {?} you look down at your speedometer and you are speeding. The police pulls you over. He comes to the car and he says those magic words. “Do you now how fast you was going?” {?} I don't know, really. You are lying. {?} Come on, you all. What is the first thing you do when you see any lights? They got to be behind you. You {?} if your speed is all right you are like I am good to go. Seatbelt, everything is checked. Speed, seatbelt. {?} All right. {?} I never looked at the speedometer. I just saw the lights and I pulled over. No you did not. You looked up there. You looked down and you try to start to come up off of it.

Well, you don't want to tell him, “Yeah, I was speeding. I was flying.” {?}. Because we are going to break our promises. Lord, {?} on the first, oh, yeah. I promise, Lord, I am not going to miss Sunday. I am going to read my Bible. I am going to pray. I am going to fast {?} for 24 yours you will be doing great. But what is that sermon that Steven preaches? Monday is coming. Then Monday comes. You get up. {?} time to read my Bible. I will catch it later on this afternoon. Well, what about that promise you gave God? What about... {?} But God never breaks his Word. God never breaks his promise. That is why, my friends, that when God says he is going to do something, you can be patient and wait because God keeps his Holy Ghost word. Hallelujah.

Let me ask you. What has he told you lately? What has he said to you? You said, “Lord, well, I have been waiting.” {?} got married and {?} was wanting a husband and she prayed and she prayed. She would seek God face and serving God and all these things. And then how was she? {?} She was 32 years old when she met Paul and {?} how long?

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<sup>19</sup> Genesis 15:17-18.

Five years. Now I guarantee you, to her that was a long time ago that she didn't have a husband. But when she was going through that process, praying to God {?} send me a husband. {?} share my life with. {?} 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. And the meantime she is a bride's maid {?} yeah, that is what I am looking for. She is a maid of honor. She is catching the bouquets. You know, I mean all that kind of stuff. And it is like. I go... {?}.

But then she meets Paul. {?} You met on the internet. All right. Love at first click. Some of you all calm down. {?} God can work stuff out like that, too. {?} I know I shouldn't have asked that question. But anyhow, but now they have been married for five years. Paul loves God and serves the Lord Jesus Christ, you know. Now she did say, I think, that she wasn't going to marry somebody that was a musician {?} but look at Paul. He plays the guitar and all this kind of stuff and he is tremendous. He is a {?} musician.

But what am I saying, though? She was waiting and waiting and waiting, but being careful. We are going to have that patient faith and the first person... {?} yeah, yeah. Let's get married. Slow down. {?} Slow down. {?} Remember Adam and Eve {?}. All right. But nonetheless, patient faith means waiting on God's promises to take place. And remember. God cannot... let me show you this and we are done. Look over to Titus, I believe it was and if I am wrong, somebody help me out. But I am looking for that verse that says God cannot lie. I believe it is in Titus. Let me see here. If that is not it, somebody holler out where it is at. {?}. All right, let me go look at the word lie. That is why you have a concordance in the back.

No there is one of the New Testament though. Let me see here. Look at the word lie. L I E.

Thank you, sweetheart. I knew it was in Titus. Thank you, sister. Titus chapter one and verse two. I was right at this verse, too. And Titus one verse two:

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”<sup>20</sup>

The Bible says here {?} that God that cannot lie promised. God keeps his promises because God cannot lie. What did he tell you? What did he say to you? What did he speak to you? Whatever he said to you, friend, just be patient. Just be patient. It is going to come to pass. But you have got to be patient. Let's not rush God, but be patient.

We are hiring. Slow down. Ask God if that is what he wants {?} I don't to ask God {?}. No, you have got to ask him. The Bible says to pray about everything, not some things, everything, everything, patient faith, patient faith.

Let me ask you this. What has God asked you again? What am I asking you? What has God told you again? What does he say to you? He is going to keep his promise. Just be patient and trust God.

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<sup>20</sup> Titus 1:2.

*Father, thank you for your {?} blessings. Father, I said, I pray and ask God that somebody that you are speaking to heir mind and you just simply want them to continue to be patient and that their patience, Lord, here and give them the peace, Lord, that I believe Abraham had as well of knowing, God, that what you have promised you will perform.*