

The Race of Their Lives

Abraham | August 8, 2021

Since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (New Living Translation 2nd Edition)

Abraham is the father [model, an example to follow] of all who believe."

Romans 4:16 (NLT, 2nd Ed.)

I am the God of your father, Abraham . . . I . . . will bless you . . . because of my promise to Abraham, my servant."

Genesis 26:24 (NLT)

"I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of your father, Isaac."

Genesis 28:13 (NLT)

"I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Exodus 3:6 (NLT)

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of . . . Abraham.

Matthew 1:1 (NLT)

"Abram believed God."

Genesis 15:6 (The Living Bible)

All who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith."

Galatians 3:9 (NLT)

ABRAHAM'S LIFE

1. Abraham was willing to risk all he owned.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed.

Genesis 12:1-4 (NLT, 2nd Edition)

[It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8 (NLT, 2nd Edition)]

- I will make you a great nation.
- I will give you a great name.
- I will make you a great blessing.

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of . . . Abraham."

Matthew 1:1 (NLT)

When God asks you to give up something — He wants to give you something, something even greater.

- Pastor Kenny

2. Abraham had some huge failures.

- He twice lied about his wife. *Genesis 12 & 20.*

Then Abimelech called for Abraham. "What have you done to us?" he demanded. "What crime have I committed that deserves treatment like this, making me and my kingdom guilty of this great sin? No one should ever do what you have done! Whatever possessed you to do such a thing?"

Genesis 20:9-10 (NLT, 2nd Edition)

- Fear of ridicule.
- Fear of being embarrassed.
- Fear of making amends.
- Fear of failure.

3. God took Abraham through a dark, painful season to remove his embarrassing fear.

"Abraham . . . Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains."

Genesis 22:2 (New America Standard Bible)

- 1) Abraham.
- 2) Take now your son.
- 3) Your only son.
- 4) Whom you love.
- 5) Isaac.
- 6) Offer him there as a burnt offering.

Abraham listened to me and obeyed all my . . . instructions.

Genesis 26:5 (NLT)

- Is God calling you to make amends?
- Is God calling to forgive someone who offended you?
- Is God calling you to serve Him at BCF?
- Is God calling you to return the tithe and learn the thrill of giving beyond-the-tithe.