

# ABRAHAM

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- *Meaning of name:* Abram means “exalted father”.
  - Abraham means “father of a great number”.
  - Abraham was the tenth generation from Noah. He was descended from Shem and his father was Terah
  - Abram had two brothers and married his half-sister, Sarai
  - Abraham’s father and grandfather worshiped false gods. Abraham was quite wealthy and had many servants.

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- Abraham is the ancestor of the Hebrews, Arabs, Edomites, and many other tribes like the Midianites.
  - God first sent the flood and then scattered the nations and confused their languages, but people still didn't repent. Therefore God chose one man, one family, and one nation out of the world and from that point on (until Christ's death on the cross) dealt primarily with that nation. God established His covenant with Abraham.
  - Abraham is not only an Old Testament figure. He is mentioned to 67 times in the New Testament. Many of these use Abraham as an example of faith and the fact that God justifies not based on works, but based on faith. Abraham is a type of model for believers.

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- Nothing supernatural or even very out of the ordinary. He was an ordinary man with great faith.

# WEAKNESSES:

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- I- Deceptive (12:12-20, 20)- Abraham was deceptive about his wife Sarah. Two times he said that she was his sister in order to avoid the possibility of being killed. This was a lie.
- I believe it showed a lack of love for Sarah. He didn't protect her as he should have and it seemed he valued his own skin more than her own.

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- 2- Abraham exhibited a lack of trust in God's promise to give him a son through Sarah, and was easily talked into something that was not God's will, that is taking Hagar as a wife (16). He wanted to do things his own way and "help God out". The result was devastating and is lasting even now.



# STRENGTHS:

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- I- Faith (Hebrews 11:8-12, Gen 12:1-4) – This was Abraham's most outstanding quality. Although he failed at times, he often showed amazing faith. What are some examples from his life where he showed great faith?
- He left his home.
- The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you'" ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)).

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- He was willing to sacrifice Isaac.
  - We know the story ends with God holding back Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, but imagine how Abraham must have felt. He had been waiting decades for a son of his own, and the God who promised this child to him was about to take him away. The point is that Abraham's faith in God was greater than his love for his son, and he trusted that even if he sacrificed Isaac, God was able to bring him back from the dead ([Hebrews 11:17-19](#)).



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- Abraham's faith wasn't a blind faith; his faith was a settled assurance and trust in the One who had proven Himself faithful and true. If we were to look back on our own lives, we would see the hand of God's providence all over it. God doesn't have to speak from burning bushes or part the sea waters to be active in our lives. God is superintending the events of our lives.

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- 2- Unselfishness (13:9)- How did Abraham show himself to be unselfish?
  - Although he was older than Lot and probably could have chosen for himself which land to settle in, he gave Lot the first choice. Through this selfless act God's will was accomplished and Abraham went to Canaan, where God greatly multiplied him. Later Abraham risked his life to save Lot.

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- 3-      Worshiped/depended on God- Abraham continually was building alters to God and giving him the glory and praise.This showed his dependence upon God for everything in his life.

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- 4- Tithing (14:20, Hebrews 7:4, Mal 3:7-12, 1 John 3:17) – Abraham honored God with his money. He wasn't greedy. God blessed Abraham and multiplied his possessions.

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- 4- Hospitality (18)- Abraham was very hospitable to strangers. He invited the three men to eat and killed a calf for them.

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- 5- Perseverance in prayer/mercy (Gen 18, 20:17)- Abraham pleaded earnestly with God for the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. He “stood in the gap” so to speak. We should also pray with this kind of boldness and concern for others.



## *LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE:*

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- I- We should all be willing to leave our “comfort zone” in order to follow God. Abraham left his country, his friends, and many of his relatives in order to follow God’s call to him. It wasn’t nearly as easy as it was today. The journey was almost 2500 km long. The end was unknown. The land was unknown. It was a more unstable world and far more dangerous. But Abraham was obedient. What was the result of his obedience?
- Are you ready to make sacrifices, to go into the unknown, to put complete faith in God and obey His call? It starts with the small things (Luke 16:10). What do you think is an area where God is calling you to have faith in Him and leave your comfort zone?

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- 2- God isn't a vengeful God, standing at the ready to destroy us the minute we make a mistake. Even when Abraham failed, God looked out for him and kept His promise to him.

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- 3- Are we the type of people who always want to pick first, or do we give others the first pick and look out for their interests? Abraham gave Lot the first pick of the land, but we often quarrel and fight and have wrong motives even over simple things. How can you show an unselfish heart towards others? (For example let your family choose the restaurant, the television show. Offer to wash the dishes, take out the trash, do the laundry, etc.) The point is that we should be more concerned with others' well-being than our own. The best thing about this is that when we are concerned about others, God is concerned about us and multiplies our joy and blessings all the more. Compare the later result of Lot and Abraham.

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- 4- We need to give tithes and offerings to God. This is commanded in the Bible (Hebrews 7:4, Mal 3:7-12, 1 John 3:17). Our money is not our own. It is God's. This is another example where we need to have faith and be obedient to God's command. If we hold back then God will hold back from us.
  - If we give freely, then God will give even more in return. This is a principle seen in Abraham's life and throughout the Bible. Right after this event God told him, "I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

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- 5- We need to do things God's way, instead of our way. We do things our way when we don't have complete trust in God or His promises. The result of Abraham's sin still lives today. Don't try to come up with a better plan than what you read in the Bible. Don't try to "help God out". Do things His way.
  - We cannot fulfill the will of God in our own strength; our efforts ultimately end up creating more problems than they solve. This lesson has wide-ranging applications in our lives. If God has promised to do something, we must be faithful and patient and wait for Him to accomplish it in His own timing.



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- 6- We should never doubt God. It would have been easy for Abraham to doubt when God told him to sacrifice Isaac. God will never lead us the wrong way. Even when we don't know why God wants us to do something and even if we don't know where it will lead, we should follow in faith.