

Prayer Resources

Online Articles

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Prayer Resources PO Box 751016 Memphis, TN 38175-1016 901.794.6999

How To Pray Against Failing Faith

But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not . . . Luke 22:32

When Jesus made the startling promises to his disciples concerning their roles in His future kingdom, He discerned the struggle Peter was having to believe such bizarre things when there was no evidence at that moment of their reality. Jesus then verbally acknowledged to Peter that Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not . . . Jesus was telling Peter that while his faith was under attack from Satan, His prayers would preserve him. What an example is Jesus for our own prayers for those who struggle in the walk of faith!

Perhaps no one in Scripture can give us better insight into Satan's attack upon faith than the man Abraham who is often referred to as "the father of faith." With such an honored nickname, we would expect to find a multitude of successes in Abraham's walk of faith; but when we study the life of "the father of faith" we encounter more failures than successes. His entire life was challenged by bizarre promises that seemed unfulfilled. Satan's attacks upon Abraham's faith through a series of tests give us practical insights in how to pray that our faith and the faith of others will not fail.

Pray that faith will not be hindered by partial obedience. When "the father of faith" was told to leave Ur and go to the land of promise, he obeyed by leaving Ur, but he stopped short of complete obedience when he stayed in Haran (see Genesis 12:1-8). Partial obedience is actually disobedience, but Satan uses it to deceive us into thinking we have obeyed. When "the father of faith" stayed in Haran, he failed the test of obedience!

Pray that faith will not be hindered by independence. When "the father of faith" began to move toward complete obedience, he encountered a famine and once again his faith was under attack (see Genesis 12:9-20). Rather than trust the Lord for his provisions in the midst of obedience, "the father of faith" traveled into Egypt to meet his own needs. Satan tempts us to use the world's valuable quality of independence to destroy the faith walk of dependence. When "the father of faith" strayed into Egypt, he failed the test of dependence!

Pray that faith will not be hindered by a lack of diligence. When God originally instructed "the father of faith" to go to the land of promise, He included the detail of leaving his family behind. When Abraham failured to be diligent in obeying this detail by taking along his nephew Lot, he found himself caught up in distracting battles (see Genesis 13:1-16). Satan can so easily hinder the walk of faith by the distraction of family. Discerning between genuine responsibilities and emotional obligations that hinder a faith walk requires diligence. When "the father of faith" was delayed by Lot, he failed the test of diligence.

Pray that faith will not be hindered by a lack of vigilance. As time went by and "the father of faith" was not seeing the fulfillment of God's promises in his life, he agreed to the sugges-

tion of his wife to take matters into his own hands and allow his child to be born of his wife's servant, Hagar (see Genesis 16:1-17:27). Satan capitalizes on the fact that a lengthy walk of faith has as much potential to empower our flesh as it does to strengthen our faith. Only persistent vigilance will ensure against believing his lie that God is waiting on us to use our flesh to accomplish His promises. When "the father of faith" was betrayed by his flesh, he had failed the test of vigilance.

Pray that faith will not be hindered by a lack of repentance. After "the father of faith" went through the maturing experience of encountering God as El Shaddai and having his name changed, he repeated the independent act of trying to provide for his needs during a famine by journeying to Gerar and having his wife lie about being his sister (see Genesis 10:1-21:34). Failure to repent from this past sin in Egypt, made Abraham vulnerable to repeat the same failure. Genuine repentance has an emotional impact that insures against repeating the same sin. Satan uses incomplete repentance to trap us in the same failure. Because "the father of faith" disobeyed at Gerar, we know he had failed the test of repentance.

Pray that faith will involve total compliance. How can a man with at least five miserable surrenders to Satan's attack upon his faith be called "the father of faith?" After God gave to Abraham visible evidence of the fulfillment of His promises, He asked him to do as bizarre a task as had been the promises. Amazingly Abraham was fully confident that to sacrifice his son Isaac would no more hinder God's faithfulness than had his past failures in his walk of faith (see Genesis 22:1-24). Abraham had matured to the point that he became fully compliant to God's direction and immune to the attacks of Satan upon his faith. Because Abraham obeyed with Isaac, he passed the test of compliance and became "the father of faith."

As you pray for the ministry of Prayer Resources, would you please consider this particular prayer focus as important as any. Our heart's desire as we come this month to the completion of fifteen years of service is to be a ministry of faith!