

March 1, 2026

Guided by the Promise

Genesis 12:1-4; Romans 4:1-17

“The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country...to the land I will show you...I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you...and he went.’” (Genesis 12:1-4).

“It was not through the law that Abraham...received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Romans 4:13).

We are all familiar with the story of Abram’s call: leaving his family home for an unknown destination, with God’s promise to lead and bless him. Scripture teaches that God's called people are guided by His promises. These promises are not just motivational slogans; they are divine commitments. **When God makes a promise, it serves as a guiding compass for His people.**

Paul, in Romans 4, shares the story of Abraham (Genesis 12), a man whose entire life centered on a promise. He didn't have a map, a timeline, or all the details. What he did have was a word from God, and that word became his compass.

The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Rome to remind us that the life of faith is not based on our performance, lineage, or perfection. Instead, it is built on God's promise. When God makes a promise, He fully intends to guide His people through it.

Paul begins by explaining that the promise made to Abraham—that he would be the "heir of the world"—did not come through the law. This means that Abraham did not earn this promise; he didn't qualify for it or achieve it through his actions. Instead, **God's promise is received through faith**, not earned through performance (verses 13–14).

If the promise relied on the law, Paul argues, then faith would be meaningless, and the promise would lose its value. Why is that? Because none of us can perfectly keep the law. If our performance determined the promise, we would lose it every day. However, God never intended His promise to be a reward for the righteous; He designed it to be a gift for those who trust Him. Abraham believed God, and that simple, trusting faith opened the door to the promise.

God’s promise is secure and guaranteed because it is based on grace (vv. 15–16). If the promise depended on your actions, it would fail. But because it depends on God, it will last forever. This is why you can keep moving forward even when you stumble. This is why you can keep believing even in moments of doubt. This is why you can press on even when life feels unstable beneath your feet. Grace not only opens the door to God’s promise; it also keeps you secure within it.

God's promise guides us because it comes from the God who gives life (v. 17). Paul describes God as the One who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things that do not exist. This is the God who made the promise and the One who guides your life. Abraham followed God into the unknown because he trusted the God who could bring life from barrenness, nations from nothing, and hope from impossibility.

Many of us feel exhausted because we are trying to earn what God has already promised. We often measure our spiritual direction by our performance, asking ourselves, “Have I done enough? Am I good enough? Am I faithful enough?” However, **the promise of God is not like a paycheck; it is a gift. Gifts are meant to be received, not earned.**

When God guides you by His promise, He is not limited by your past, your weaknesses, your circumstances, your resources, or your understanding. Your reality does not shape God’s promise; God’s promise shapes your reality.

God's promises guide us, but they don't always lead us where we expect. Often, these promises lead us through difficult situations. While they do not prevent difficulties, they help us understand and interpret them. Let us remember that:

- Joseph received a promise, yet he found himself in a pit.
- Israel was given a promise, but they wandered in the wilderness.
- The disciples had a promise, and then they faced a storm.

The promise doesn’t eliminate the valley; rather, it redefines it. In this way, the valley becomes a hallway instead of a home.

Despite the challenges that come with God's promises, **here are the assurances that guide believers today:**

- 1. His Presence:** "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)
- 2. His Purpose:** "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion." (Phil 1:6)
- 3. His Provision:** "My God will supply all your needs." (Philippians 4:19)
- 4. His Peace:** "My peace I give to you." (John 14:27)
- 5. His Power:** "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8)

We are indeed guided by God’s promises as we reflect on Abraham’s story. Through Abraham’s journey, we learn that God’s promise calls us to step out of our comfort zones, shapes us into who God intends us to be, and invites us to obey, which unlocks God’s blessings.

You may not know the entire path ahead or see the final destination. However, like Abraham, you can trust the One who calls you. When God makes a promise, He also provides Himself, and that is sufficient to lead you forward. So, move forward—not by what you see, or what you feel, but by what God has promised. **Let the promise of God be the compass that guides your life...** “for He who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23).