



## WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS BILL BUSH | 12.19.2021

**BIG QUESTION | Does your FAITH work when life doesn't?**

**HOW DO YOU HAVE A FAITH FOR ALL SEASONS?  
1. TRUST WHO, NOT WHAT**

**Romans 4:17 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

**Hebrews 6:13-14 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

<sup>14</sup> "I will certainly bless you,  
and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."

**2. TRUST GOD'S WORD, NOT WISHFUL THINKING**

**Romans 4:18 (NLT)**

<sup>18</sup> Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

**3. LOOK BEYOND YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

**Romans 4:19 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb.

**4. WORSHIP GOD, NOT YOUR WORRY**

**Romans 4:20-24 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. <sup>21</sup> He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. <sup>22</sup> And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. <sup>23</sup> And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded <sup>24</sup> for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

**Genesis 22:5-14 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup> "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. <sup>11</sup> At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

<sup>12</sup> "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."

<sup>13</sup> Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. <sup>14</sup> Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

#### **Romans 4:25 (NLT)**

<sup>25</sup> He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.