

When we step into new territory you can count on delays and setbacks. Anything worthwhile is not going to be easy. We will face hard times; even times where we may want to give up and quit.

Faith Is Refusing To Give Up Believing

"...God does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what He is doing." Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)

How To Keep On Keeping On

1. Remember The Six Phases Of Faith

Phase 1: DREAM (Age 75)

*(God) "I will make you into a great nation..."
Genesis 12:1-3*

Phase 2: DECISION

*"So Abraham left as the Lord had told him to..."
Genesis 12:4*

Phase 3: DELAY (Age 86)

*"But Sarah still had not borne any children..."
Genesis 16:1*

Phase 4: DIFFICULTY (Age 99)

*"How can a son be born to a man my age?"
Genesis 17-18*

Phase 5: DEAD END

*"Take your only son, whom you love, and sacrifice him..."
Genesis 21:1-6, 22:1-12*

Phase 6: DELIVERANCE

*(God) "Don't hurt the boy...I've provided a lamb..."
Genesis 22:12-14*

2. Remember

"Abraham believed in God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing." Romans 4:17 (NCV)

*“What is impossible with men is possible with God.”
Luke 18:27 (NIV).*

3. Rely On _____

“When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith...He relied on the word of God...” Romans 4:18 (Ph)

“While God was testing him, Abraham still trusted in God and his promises, so he offered his son Isaac...” Hebrews 11:17 (LB)

Two Memory Verses This Week

“With God everything is possible.” Matthew 19:26

*“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
Galatians 5:6*

“Though it seemed Abraham’s hope could not be fulfilled... he did become the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised.” Romans 4:18 (JB)

4. Recognize _____

“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead...and Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he didn’t waver with unbelief...” Romans 4:19-20a (NIV)

5. Rejoice _____

“Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything He promised.” Romans 4:20-21 (LB)

“We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:2 (NIV)