

05 August 2018 The Source and the Future (Part 4) Pastor John (Jhb)

[Transcribed by the Jhb team]

Scripture Reference: Genesis 15:1; Genesis 14:17; Genesis 22:1; Genesis 22:9; Genesis 24:50; Hebrews 6:17; Hebrews 7:1 – 3; Genesis 25:11; Genesis 25:19-23; Genesis 22:15-18 (AMPC); Genesis 24: 1-14 (AMPC); Genesis 24:25-35 (AMP); verse 50-51 (AMP); Genesis 25:5 (AMP)

Thank you, Lord, that we have the most Holy God living within us. And I thank you Lord that in this service today, we have spiritual ears to hear, we have a heart that is ready to receive, and we thank you Lord that the Holy Spirit will give us all the revelation and insight we need in this service today Father. And we ask you, that everything that is said and done will give glory and honour to Jesus. Thank you, Lord. Amen. You may be seated. Praise the Lord. Praise Jesus.

By way of a brief review today, I want to just very very quickly, perhaps allow you to experience with me: “What will happen if everyone of us in this auditorium had faith to believe God for something that was big enough to be moving a mountain. I wonder what would happen to us. I don’t think there would be an end to the telling of it, number one. Number two, I don’t think there would be an end to the beginning of it, because once it began it would never end, right? Is this what I am talking about possible? So, what would make it possible amongst us, just this church? What would make it possible for us to have ‘mountain-moving-faith’.

Let me ask the question another way: How much faith do you have to have to move a mountain? The tiniest of all seeds, so it doesn’t take much faith. It just takes faith. What it takes is, enduring faith. So, faith that is not impacted by what you see, by what you hear, by what you experience. So, it’s fair to say, that you and I have all been given *the* measure of faith, right? That means *the* measure, none of us have less or more than the other. What we’ve got to do is grow our faith or grow.... let’s say, let’s rather put it this way, we’ve got to grow the *use of our faith*, right? So, if we are not having faith results, then maybe we are not using our faith, we are not using our faith, it means we are not putting into us, what faith requires, the Word. So, one thing that faith requires is the Word. Without the Word you can’t have faith, you can’t exercise your faith, Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

So, everything that we have need of, to really make a significant change in our lives is already in us, we don’t have to go look for it, it’s already in us. What we’ve got to do is exercise it. I’ve told Sharon this for many years, it’s getting to the point where she can almost see it now. But many years, I’ve been telling her I’ve got a really awesome six-pack, under, under this layer of fat, you know, you just can’t see it, it’s well hidden. It’s not so well hidden anymore, it’s getting there, one of these days she will see the six-pack, you know. Praise the Lord for that, but you know, underneath, inside of you is a spirit man, is enough faith, you have been given the measure of faith, you have enough faith, you just have to exercise the faith. You’ve got to feed that faith with the Word of God, and so that is the way God has allowed us to be a new breed of people that can change things in the world around us. That everybody born since Adam cannot, but everybody born into Jesus, since Jesus came, can. So,

I am giving you a brief review of what we've talking about for some weeks in this way.

So, everybody since Adam, could not change their circumstances, unless they had faith in God. Abraham was one of them. Moses heard the Word of God and then he had faith and even then, sometimes he, what he saw in the people, he ended up not going into the Promised Land because the people upset him, with all of his faith and all of the glory of God that he saw. The people still upset him to the point where he never went into the Promised Land. I mean, it was his choice but it was the way it was; he'd disobeyed God. We have, we've got a lot, we've got lot to work with- us, there is a lot that we can change, there's a lot that we can change, Hallelujah.

Personally, I think we are too easily intimidated as, especially as faith people and we would say, "Not faith people; faith people know their stuff and who they are in God." I think the faith people are more intimidated than other Christians because we are a genuine threat to the enemy of God and so he uses intimidation against us all the time, to intimidate us to not use our faith. And part of the intimidation he uses against us, is he uses the intimidation of not seeing the results of faith. So, when you're speaking faith, then you should be seeing the results of faith and he intimidates us with, "What if you don't see the results of faith?" So then you back off your faith because you are intimidated that you might not see the results of your faith because the possibility of not seeing the results of your hope, intimidates you, to be not as hopeful, therefore not as faithful. I'm preaching really well this afternoon. Hallelujah.

Do you know, that recently I heard one of the very big name faith preachers in America, I've heard him preach whole sermons, preach a whole series on this and he preached that he has become aware of this phraseology in America, amongst faith churches: "*I'm believing God for this or I'm believing God for that,*" and he preached a whole series on the people that are saying that you believe in God, are not actually believing God. But they are using the phrase of "I'm believing God," to sound like they are faith people. And so they are substituting real faith for words that says, "I'm believing God." The reality is, if you really believe God, then you will see the result of what you believe. So that doesn't mean to say you mustn't say, "I'm believing God." I am believing God. You have to believe God if you have faith. But if you have fake words coming out of your mouth to say, "That I'm believing God," and you never see the results of what you are believing God for, without having the faith in your heart, then you deceive yourself, to say that I am believing God, when you are not.

So when I heard this whole series of messages, from a man I really respect, he is a faith man, he is a Word man, he is a really wonderful teacher of the Word of God, I was reminded by the Lord, that when I started preaching faith, as a Heritage of Faith Church, 20 years ago, God gave me a message and I refused to accommodate an atmosphere that was around me that says, "Look at my wealth, I'm living in faith. Look at my health, I'm living in faith, look at my external expressions, they must indicate that I am in faith." That's not an indication of faith. And so eventually, it led me to talk about it, it led me to a message: *7 Active Ingredients of Living Faith* and if you want to know the 7 active ingredients of living faith is exactly addressing this issue: I believe, but I'm not really believing. That's why faith is a living, living daily relationship with Jesus and it's something you've got to have in your heart. It's got to be alive in your heart.

So I've been talking for some weeks about the real hero in this diagram, is Enoch. You know, because Enoch walked with God, and he had a son, Methusaleh who watched his dad walk with God, watched his father walk with God and so then he had a son by the name of Lamech, who had a son by the name of Noah and he prophesied that Noah would be the deliverer of the people and so Noah went through the flood, and all that, I've been through all that, and so Noah gave birth to Shem, Ham and Japheth and last week, I began to talk to you about how he got drunk and he was naked in the tent and Shem and Japheth went to cover his nakedness and Ham exposed his nakedness and had lots to say about it and then Noah found out about it or realised what had happened and he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham. He didn't curse Ham, he cursed Canaan and he said, "Canaan will be the servant of servants," and then he blessed Japheth and he said, "Japheth, you will be enlarged and you will increase,.... but Shem, you will be the ruler and you will be blessed and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through you, but Japheth, you are going to grow but you will grow under the leadership of Shem". Okay? And eventually, Shem led to giving birth to Abraham who brought about Isaac and Jacob and Ishmael, and the rest is not what I am worried about or concerned about. I'm only concerned about this. Okay? (Pastor Sharon reminds Pastor John to talk about something and he replies, "I intend to. Thank you Baby")

So we going to go to **Genesis 14**, so I think that I somehow - I somehow - I got the reference wrong here; somewhere along the line but, anyway, it is in Genesis. I think it is Chapter 14:17, it's the New Living Translation. ¹⁷ **After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).**¹⁸ **And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine.**¹⁹ **Melchizedek blessed Abram with his blessing: with this blessing: So Melchizedek blessed Abraham with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.**²⁰ **And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered. (Genesis 14:17-20)**

So now, I want to just say what Pastor Sharon said that I should say. How is the blessing, how is the blessing transferred from Melchizedek to Abraham or Abram? How is the transfer happening? So is a blessing a real thing or isn't it? (Congregation responds, "It is a real thing".) So the blessing is a real thing? (Congregation responds, "Yes"). So what is the blessing that if it is the real thing, what is the blessing?

Well, the blessing as you can break it down simplistically, is the power to prosper. Right? Power to prosper. So if blessing is a real thing, then how is it that one man can tell another man, I power you to prosper? How is that possible? That one person can tell another person? Because I don't have the power, I don't have the power to give you. Right? So if I bless you, I don't have the power to give you the power to prosper? So then how can I bless you? So when Noah blessed Shem, and he blessed Japheth, but he cursed Canaan, who gave him the power to do that? He didn't have the power to say to Shem, "I bless you to have all of this blessing in your life", and, "I bless you Japheth, that you will enlarge but under Shem's leadership and I curse you Ham". So what is a curse then? So, I mean, you have to understand, where does the power come from?

So if Noah is standing and he is making these declarations, where are these words coming from and where does the power come from to make that statement? He is speaking from a place of interaction with God, where he knows God and he stands under a prophetic anointing. In that moment, God shows up and under a prophetic anointing, he speaks. So then the power to prosper is transferred with words. So as the words are spoken, so the power is released to make it happen. Right?

To the point where the spoken word is now irreversible. He says, "It will, this is the way it is, that is the way it becomes." So when he says to Ham, "I curse Canaan," what is he doing? He is speaking out the facts of what has already occurred as a result of the choice. So the consequence of the choices that were made by Shem and Japheth were facts that brought about a result of their choices. So what happened to Ham, there was a result to Ham's choices. The result was words that would be spoken that had power in themselves to cause the result of the choices to come to pass. You get it? (Congregation responds, "Yes").

So a blessing is: all these good things will happen as a result of your choices. And I am speaking the words that God puts His power on to make all these good things happen in your life as a result of your choices. A curse is: here is all the bad things that are going to happen in your life as a result of your choices. And the power is released to make sure that what is now spoken, that other things that could possibly happen to you, will not happen to you.

There is a fence around your life. Effectively, is what a curse is. Your life has a fence around it that the, ...all the goodness that God has that is available, cannot come to you. You are 'ring-fenced' because of your choice. That is a good way to describe it. So a curse, says, "I take the power by God and I 'ring-fence' your life and this is what you will become in your life because your choices made you that". And so your choice has initiated, has, to use a computer terminology, has 'booted' this into your life. It has initialised this, initiated this ring-fence in your life. Okay, so if we take this one step further, then we have to say that while we were under the Adamic curse, we were 'ring-fenced' to only be able to get from the earth and get from life, what could be yielded through hard work and toil.

When Jesus came and died on the Cross, cursed is He that hangs on a Cross. He took all of our future 'ring-fencing' on Himself, so that all of the limits that we had, through the choices that were made before us, are removed. Now we have limitless blessed power, limitless blessed power. We have limitless power available to us. So much so that God says if you have the faith of a mustard seed, you can speak to a mountain and it will obey you and must be moved. That's limitless. Hallelujah.

So when Abram comes from his victory and he comes and he stands in front of ¹⁸...**Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God Most High (Genesis 14:18, NLT)**. When he comes and he stands in front of Abram, Abram brought him some bread and wine. Well, we know, symbolically what that means, but practically, he was bringing the source of life to him, the source of fellowship to him, okay? And he said, ¹⁹**Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth (Genesis 14:19, NLT)**. This is important because Abram came from a culture where there were many gods. And so

when he came as the God of the Most High, the priest of God the Most High, he came to say, "The Creator of all is Who is blessing you." So there's no higher god, there's no higher force that can be blessing you. So how is this blessing transferred through words? But faith in those words that the blessing is transferred.²⁰ **"And blessed be God Most High, Who has defeated your enemies for you." (Genesis 14:20, NLT).** In other words, he was doing the fighting but God was doing the defeating.

This is the way that we have to live our lives. You do the working, God does the increasing. You give the energy, God does the empowering. He does the stuff that you can't do. And so, if you can put it plainly, "I've got a sword in my hand and I'm fighting against this enemy and I see an opening and I stick my sword into him, *boom* he dies." How did that opening come? God Most High was fighting and defeating him and making those openings happening as I'm fighting him and he could see no openings in me, and I saw an opening and we move to the next one.

Come on, this is God working. See, God defeated the enemies and it wasn't as though Abram was standing on the sidelines watching the angels going to war. He had a sword in his hand, he was fighting an enemy, but he defeated them, easily. So how does that happen? That means that God's anointing you to see things in His defence system where there's opening and they cannot see any openings in your defence system. Come on now. This is how God wants us to live our lives.

Whether there is an opening in your defence system or not, doesn't mean to say that Abraham had the most highly trained warriors in all the land. In fact, the Bible doesn't talk like that, it actually talks about Abram had a bunch of servants, male servants that actually served him. He had a fair amount of them, you know, he had a lot of them. He took a whole lot of them when he went to war and so they were probably skilled, some in archery and some in using knives and swords because in those days they needed to kill animals and I mean, they lived with their hands and they lived on the land, you know, but they were not necessarily trained warriors, you know. But they defeated them, because God was with him. God defeated them.

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered (Genesis 14:20, NLT). This is the first time a tenth is mentioned and I've heard a lot of people preach about a lot of things relating to this tenth and most people don't want to...they preach against this; don't believe in tithing. And so, you know, part of what they want to say is that Abraham didn't give a tenth of all that he had. Abraham only gave a tenth of all that he recovered in battle. So if you go to battle and you win a tenth of the goods and you win goods in battle on a very unique specific situation in your life, then that's what you must give a tenth of. That's how they argue against this. Because they don't want to believe in tithing. They want to put tithing under the law and make it all kinds of law.

Here's the thing what they don't say when they say that, is Abraham didn't give God a tenth, Abraham gave God his whole life. When God said, "Go out of your land and follow me and I will take you and you will be my people and I'll be a God to you - and I will show you a land that I will give you," Abraham gave his whole life over to God. This – he didn't just give a tenth to God. He gave a whole, all of his life to God. So anybody who wants to argue, when you've given your whole life to God, then you can argue with this. Number 1. Number 2, I have another point for you, just to be

clear about it. It's the first time Abraham came across another man, that was a holy man, a man that represented God – the living God. It's the first time that he came across such a man other than himself. So immediately he come across this man who pronounces a blessing over him and gives glory to the Creator of heaven and earth and to, the Most High God, he can't stop himself, he takes a tenth of everything he has and gives to them.

Let me tell you, the only way to beat poverty is to believe in God and tithe, otherwise poverty and financial struggle will, it will always be an issue in your life forever. You will never break the poverty cycle. People say to me, "Yeah, but there's people in the world that prosper and they don't tithe?" Yeah, because they don't believe God and they're doing whatever they can, using whatever skills and opportunities they can, but I read to you already, injustice will come and take it from them. It will be taken from them, at some point in time, it will be removed from them. The wealth of the wicked is laid up for the just and injustice will remove the wealth that is in the hands of the ungodly. It will happen that way. So that's why I've always preached if you don't believe in tithing then you need to get confession, get Word into you. So that the Word inside of you will grow up. So that you will know that this, that I know that I know that I know, this is the way for my deliverance. This is the way I need to live my life. This is not the way that I.... and if you don't believe in that then you may do that as a way of obedience but then your obedience will waver according to your convenience. So, if your obedience is subject to your convenience then you're not really living by enduring faith. You may have short bursts of faith to tithe, based on the convenience and the circumstances. Praise the Lord.

Genesis 14:21 ²¹ The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered." ²² Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, 'I am the one who made Abram rich.' ²⁴ I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies " (Genesis 14:21-24) my friends that fought with me. So he is making a statement here. He is saying, "I'm only going to give glory to the Most High God for making me wealthy. And there will never be a man that can say, "I made you wealthy." Hallelujah. Praise The Lord. Praise Jesus.

I think we are in Genesis chapter 15 now, verse one. I think. I got my numbers wrong here. Am I right? **Genesis 15:1**.... ¹Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great." ² But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. ³ You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir." (Genesis 15:1-3)

What did Noah do with Ham? He said, "You will be a servant of servants, a server of servants." But for Abraham you will be one that all the nations of the earth will be blessed by. So when Abraham is saying to God, "What does all this wealth mean if I can't transfer it?" It needs to be transferred. The end of your life, there needs to be a wealth transfer. Come on. Otherwise what's the point? And wealth is not just about

money. But in this case he was saying, “What am I going to do with all this money that You’re blessing me with, if I don’t have a son?”

(Genesis 15:4-6) ⁴Then the LORD said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” ⁵Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!” ⁶And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

So, he saw, he heard, he believed. In that moment Abram knew that he would have a son. Come on now. In that moment Abram knew he would have a son. He knew. He knew it because otherwise God wouldn’t have said he is righteous because he had faith. In that moment he believed God that he would have a son. Was the son there yet? Not yet. But he knew. So then, **(Genesis 15:7) ⁷Then the LORD told him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.”**

So now he had already said to the Lord, “I don’t have a son”. So, the Lord said, “Look”. He heard, he looked, he believed. The Lord said, “You’re going to have all this land”. And he says to the Lord, **Genesis 15:8 ⁸“O Sovereign LORD, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?”** Why was there a question of whether he could possess it? Well, he just got through fighting with just a few kings. There were lots of other kings that actually occupied this land. So, he is asking, “How will I know that I am going to actually possess it because there are so many people in this land?” It’s okay to ask God questions. But when He answers you with the Word then you must believe Him. And the Lord then goes through a ritual. He takes animals, He asks Abraham, he cuts them in half, he puts them all out in the ground.

Then **Genesis 15:11 ¹¹Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him.¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. ¹⁵(As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) ¹⁶After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.” (Genesis 15:11-16)**

So there was a time when the Amorites sins was going to come to its fullness and then God was going to judge it and He was going say, “Can’t go any more”. And that’s the time when God was going to coincide releasing the people from Israel into the land because their arrival in the land would judge the sin of the Amorites. **After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day and said,” I have given this land to your**

descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River ¹⁹the land now occupied by the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and Jebusites.”(Genesis 15:17-21)

So God was saying, “I am making an oath by myself that your descendants will come and occupy this land in their multitudes. And they will vanquish these people. And we see it in **Hebrews 6:17.... God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.** ¹⁸So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. ²⁰ Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:17-20).

So Melchizedek didn’t just show up for just good measure. So we can see about Melchizedek in the next chapter. **Hebrews 7:1–3 ¹This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. ²Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means “King of justice,” and King of Salem means “King of peace”. ³There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors – no beginning or no end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God. (Hebrews 7:1-3)**

Some say that he was Jesus, some say that he resembled Jesus in terms of an angel – whatever it was, when he was blessing Abraham, he was blessing him from a person who represented the source of God’s power. Hallelujah. I am sharing all of this stuff with you, and I have taken great care and I have taken a lot of time over the last number of weeks to explain to you all of the stuff – about the stuff, from Abraham to Cain and Abel, to Enoch to Noah, to how the ground was cursed and how Jesus came to do away with the curse that was on the ground for those who would believe Him. We are not released from the Adamic curse, but we are released from the toil curse. But we are still living in the Adamic world, so in the Adamic world we can be affected by everything that touches our natural realm, but we can be free to operate in God with an empowered blessing because of words that come in our heart which we use by faith to change our circumstances.

I have been at length to tell you this because we get to this point with Abraham where God is blessing him a most high priest, called Melchizedek, comes to bless Abraham which means words are spoken that he’d have the power for those words to come to pass. So we know that everything that God speaks will accomplish that which it was sent out to perform and it will not return unto Him void. So when you

function in the realm of Jesus in your heart, speaking words out of your heart that are filled with belief and faith, then the same power that Jesus has, is the same power that you can release - to bless or to 'ring-fence', which is why Jesus said to His disciples, "When you bind something on earth it is already bound in heaven; what you lose on earth, is already loosed in heaven."

You can't just do this because you speak words, you speak words that are in line with God's will, that are in your heart that you believe, that come out by faith then the faith that is in you already does everything that God would do if He was in you and you are Jesus in that situation, so you can bind and lose with the same authority.

So God has given us a whole new paradigm of power, a whole new paradigm of power that we can operate in. Which is why I say, "If we really believe that we have this, then we would be very careful what we say negatively and we'd be very careful what we say, what we bless." And especially for me, I have become very aware. I do this frequently. I say to people, I bless you, I bless you. And some people may think well you know, he is just in the habit of doing that as a pastor. I'm very aware with words coming out of my mouth when I say, "I bless you."

When I stand here on a Sunday or weekly when I stand here and I say, "Can I pray for you, can I bless you?" I am aware that I stand under God's authority and I have no power to make things come to pass that I say, but I stand under God's authority and declare with God what He would say if He was here. And so when I pray it, I release my faith for those things to come about in your life. And so when I stand here week after week and I finish the service, and I say, "I declare and I decree this: that you are protected by the Word and the Blood of Jesus and that no weapon that is formed against you will prosper." I believe that blessing is upon your life. Those words are sent with all the faith and authority that God gives me to send them out to empower you to avoid circumstances where weapons are formed against you and they will not prosper.

So that doesn't mean to say that you don't have weapons come against you, weapons come against you, but they just can't prosper to the end that they sent to destroy you. Hallelujah. I do believe, this is a strong belief system in me - in me I believe, I don't just say I believe. I believe that I am a delegated authority. I stand and I made this decision a long time ago, I say, "Lord, I understand and I accept the role of being in the full time ministry as one of Your gifts that you have sent to the body of Christ, then I understand that when the end of time comes, I will be judged and I might even be judged on the earth, but I will be judged doubly for what my actions are." Because that is the condition that comes with my gift and my calling. I better do right by God's people. That's why when ministers come and they want the glamour of the pulpit and they want the glamour of the life of the pastor that gets honour and gets, you know, people respect the pastor. They want all of that but they don't understand what they're leading and getting themselves in for spiritually. You don't want this position unless God's called you to this position because if God's

called you, then you must also have a realization and actually, and I'm speaking by my spirit now when I say that: *The reason why we need fathers to pronounce blessings to release you into your gifts and callings, is because without the fathers releasing the blessings, then you will never know what the calling can do and you will never know what the consequences of the calling are and you will never have the protection of the calling.* You will just say, "Well I think I'll do this" - not a good idea. It has to be a God calling, not a good idea. Hallelujah.

I've seen this many, many times where people have the gift of teaching upon them so then they assume that they have the calling of a five-fold teacher because they can teach two separate things. A gift of teaching doesn't mean that you're called to the five-fold gift of a teacher. I guess I could say it like this: everybody can run but there are some people that have got a gifting that can run very fast and very far. Usain Bolt for example, I mean, you put him in a starting block (he's retired now supposedly) and when he started a race, he could run. Everybody can run but he runs at another level because he's got something 'extra'. Right?

It's the same thing with a teaching gift. The bible says in the book of Romans that there are some that are called to teach but that doesn't mean they are called to the five-fold ministry of teaching. So everybody can run but there are some people that are anointed to run, anointed to stand in the office of a teacher. The same book of Romans talks about, there are some that will prophesy, there's an anointing to prophesy. Yes everybody can run but there are some that can run, that are called to be a prophet. So now there's this whole thing going around in the church where everybody's an apostle and then everybody's a bishop, then everybody's a prophet-you don't know what you're talking about. You're opening yourself up to a whole bunch of hurt if you pronounce that over yourself and try and walk in that gift, hallelujah. How did I get there? By the Holy Spirit.

Let me say this, the name Melchizedek means 'king of justice' and the 'king of peace.' As a believer you can always count on justice and peace. God is our justice and He is our peace. Hallelujah. **Genesis 22:1 After these events God tested and proved Abraham.** So now he's got two sons; one of his sons is an illegitimate son -there were all kinds of 'shenanigans' that went on there - basically it was the result of doubt and unbelief in Sarah, not in Abraham, doubt and unbelief in Sarah, and so he has two sons but only one of them is a birthright son and next week I will touch on, briefly, I will touch on, the birthright. The Lord might have me talk more about it when we have our Glory Weekend about birthright, but I must briefly touch on birthright next week and you will see why when I get to the end of my message today., how birthright is important but there was only one son who had a birthright and it was the son of a covenant relationship, it wasn't the son of a casual relationship - it was the son of a covenant relationship.

So after these events, God tested and proved Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" and he said, "Here I am". God said, "Take now your only son

Isaac, whom you love and go to the region of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac and he split the wood for the burnt offering and then he began the trip to the place of which God had told him. On the third day (so we understand, 3 days) Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance and Abraham said to his servants, “Settle down and stay here with the donkey and I and the young man will go yonder and worship and come again to you.” Then Abraham took the wood from the burnt offerings and laid it on the shoulders of Isaac, his son and he took the fire and the fire pot in his own hand and the knife and the two of them went together. And Isaac said to Abraham, “My father”, he said, “Here I am my son”. Isaac said, “See here are the fire and the wood but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” Abraham said, “My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering”, so the two of them went on together. (Genesis 22: 1-8)

Evidently, that answer was good enough for Isaac because he’s looking around, “We don’t have an offering, who is the offering?” God Himself will provide. Evidently, Isaac was already so in tune with his father about God the Most High, that when Abraham answered Isaac that God will provide the offering, then he didn’t have another question because he knew that God and his father had a relationship of such depth and quality that his answer is that God will provide Himself an offering, then that was good enough for him that it was the truth. Hallelujah – it’s a good revelation that hey?

And they came to the place of which God had told him and Abraham built an altar there and he lay wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. (Genesis 22: 9)

So just for us to understand, I know you know this and I know this might sound like I’m labouring the point to you today but I need to say this, I need to say: Abraham has come this whole journey over all of these many, many years now with God, he obeyed God, left the town, the city and all of the places he was comfortable with. He went down to Egypt and he is back. All of this time God has given him all of these promises and he has obeyed God. His obedience to God and his faith in God has brought him to the point, where Sarah who could not have a son has had a covenant son. So even though, he had an Ishmael, the son of the covenant was the strength of his inheritance. Now God is asking him to sacrifice this son, to Him.

Hey Melusi, I wonder if you could sacrifice your daughter, if God said, “Sacrifice her.” Hey? What about if God came and asked you to give up your daughter, to sacrifice your daughter? It would be a tough thing. Hey, Waldus? I mean no wonder he didn’t tell Sarah he was doing all of this. Hey Kit - I think he had some wisdom there not telling Sarah, he just went ahead and did it, because Sarah would have made a big fuss. I don’t think he would have heard the end of it. I mean there’s a lesson to be

learnt there, because he you know, I mean don't tell everybody what God is telling you to be, especially if you've got to make a major sacrifice, because they're likely to destroy your faith with their reason. "How could you do this?" "This is not possible, that God would tell you this." "How could God tell you to give up your only son?" "How could God demand such a sacrifice from any man?." Hey? I mean we got to understand that this is still a man with a man's emotions and he's going but he's taking his emotions and he's saying, "These emotions will not dominate me. I will obey God. My Faith in God is absolute. I will obey him."

Hey Paul, I wonder if you would do that with any of your sons, or your kids? I mean just to bring it home, really. You know, "Really God, you're asking me to give up my kids, my son, to go put him on the altar and slay him, like a, like a, like a sacrifice?" How many, how many, three days of thinking, how many, what do you think happened to him during three days of thinking? That's why I say it's not faith that we lack, it's the faith that will get you through the three days of thinking. We have the faith. We got to get through the three days of thinking. That's a title that I will preach someday, "Getting through the three days of thinking with your Faith." Hallelujah. That's a good message somewhere along the line.

⁹When they came to the place which God had told him of, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood." (Genesis 22:9)

Can you imagine that? Isaac never put up a fight. That's the whole point. Stand up Brynn. You understand that I just made an altar here. So I'm going to take you, and I'm going to bind you now. And I'm Abraham and I'm now 110, 120 years old.... plus. Somewhere round about there, 120 years old. I've got a young man who is my son. If he didn't want to do it, he ain't going do it. It means he had faith in me. And he had faith in what me and God is up to here. So I tie him by his feet, and I tell him to lay on the altar and then I tie his feet. Now I mean I just want you to get a visualisation here. I mean Abraham was doing this. There was a moment here. There's a moment, there's a realisation by Isaac here, "This is me.... I'm it.... but okay, I'll do it. I know your walk with God is,.... I trust it." **¹⁰Abraham stretched forth his hand and took hold of the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. And said, ' Abraham! Abraham! ...(Genesis 22:10-11)**

He didn't want Abraham to mistake his voice, in case he hit him with a knife. He didn't want Abraham to do it. It was good enough that Abraham would do it in his heart. This is where faith happens. Faith is so powerful that it always receives the deed as being done. That's why it's everything that you hope for - the evidence of the things you can't yet see. As far as Abraham was concerned, God had was either going to resurrect Isaac, or He was going to stop him or do something and He stopped him, and he shouted to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham! Don't do it!"

... Here am I, he said. ¹²Do not lay your hands on the lad or do anything to him for now I know that you fear and revere God for you have not held back from Me. Or begrudged giving me your son, your only son.” “Oh, I thought he had Ishmael? “In God’s eyes there was only one son, that was the covenant son. ¹³ **And then Abraham looked up and glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns ... (Genesis 22:12-13).** How come he didn’t see it before?

(Helen says, “He wouldn’t have needed faith.”) Exactly, exactly right Helen. He was either there all the time and God hid it from him. But God had to see his faith and he didn’t need to think that there was an alternative. He’d already thought there was an alternative before and brought Ishmael. Suddenly God opens his eyes and there’s a ram caught in the thicket. That ram didn’t just suddenly get caught in the thicket. That ram was there, he just didn’t see it, God closed his eyes to it. So that he wouldn’t have an alternative. Anyway, I like to think that, I can’t prove that, this way or that way. The word is clear on that ‘*suddenly*’ it was there.

....**And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering and an ascending sacrifice instead of his son! ¹⁴So Abraham call the name of that place The Lord Will Provide. And it is said to this day, on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. ¹⁵ The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ And said, I have sworn by Myself, says the Lord, that since you have done this and have not withheld [from Me] or begrudged [giving Me] your son, your only son, ¹⁷ In blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants like the stars of the heavens and like the sand on the seashore. And your Seed (Heir) will possess the gate of His enemies, ¹⁸ And in your Seed, [Christ], shall all the nations of the earth be blessed *and* [by Him] bless themselves. (Genesis 22:13-18)**

How is it that He could prophesy already that by Him, we would bless ourselves? Well we are the ‘blessed’ that has the power to pronounce blessings over ourselves. What level of blessing? The same blessing as God blessed Him, we have the ability to bless ourselves. That means I believe the Word, I speak the Word and I am empowering my words to go out and God makes the power available to make it come to pass. It’s not my power, it’s His power but I can bless myself with His power. I bless myself. I bless myself. I bless myself to prosper. I bless myself to be very rich and very wealthy. I bless myself with all manner of possessions to come into my hands. I bless myself with new cars. I bless myself with multiple houses. I bless myself with new things. Well, where do you get that?from Abraham.

Come on now. If you going to have faith in God then you got to be able to appropriate this blessing that He blessed Abraham with, because all of Abraham’s blessings and promises are ours, through Christ. ¹⁷ **And you will possess the gates of your enemies (Genesis 22:17).** In other words there is no enemy that can come against you that can possess you. You will beat all the enemies that come into your

life. Hallelujah. ¹⁸**“Because you have heard and obeyed my voice” (Genesis 22:18).** That is always the key thing. You have got to hear God’s voice. You have got to have that intimate relationship with Him where you are hearing what He is saying. Hallelujah.

Genesis 24, I’m getting to, I’m getting close to talking about Jacob’s Constellation. We’re getting there, because we are already at Abraham. ¹**Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.** ²**And Abraham said to the eldest servant of his house [Eliezer of Damascus], who ruled over all that he had, I beg of you, put your hand under my thigh;** ³**And you shall swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites (Genesis 24:1-3).**

Where was Abraham living? In the land of Canaan, he says my wife, my son cannot marry anybody from Canaan, why? Because he knew about the blessing and he knew about the ring-fence. One that is blessed without limit cannot marry one who is ring-fenced in their limitation. So he’s saying, “My son can’t marry someone from here.” ³ **among whom I have settled,** ⁴**But you shall go to my country and to my relatives and take a wife for my son Isaac.** ⁵**The servant said to him, but perhaps the woman will not be willing to come along after me to this country. (Genesis 24:3-5).** I mean, hey, he knows girls. Some strange guy pitches up and says come marry a guy you haven’t met, you know, come be part of a family in a country you don’t even know. I mean it is a valid question, right?

Then he says,.... ⁶**perhaps the woman will not be willing to come along after me to this country. Must I take your son to the country from which you came? (Genesis 24:6).** In other words, but let’s let her see, he’s a good-looking dude. He’s young and strong, you know, he will be a good guy to marry.

And Abraham says he cannot go back there, that’s the thing about fathers - is that fathers never want their sons to go back to where they have been. They’re always worried and concerned about their son’s future not about the past. They will do anything to make sure that their sons don’t go back to the past but that they must go to the future. So what does that say about heavenly Father for us? The heavenly Father says, “I don’t want you living in the past the way that Adam lived in the past, you’ve got to live in the future, the way Jesus proclaimed your future.” He’s not interested in helping you go back to the past. He wants you to be blessed in your future. This is so rich and I’m preaching such good stuff here. Like I said last week TD Jakes wishes he could preach like this. I’m just kidding, I’m just having some fun.

⁷**The Lord, the God of heaven, Who took me from my father’s house, from the land of my family and my birth, Who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, To your offspring I will give this land—He will send His Angel before you, and you**

will take a wife from there for my son. (Genesis 24:7). What is Abraham doing? The guys asking him legitimate questions, I'm going to a land, I'm going to meet a people, they don't know me, they don't know you and whose going to come with me? And Abraham says that's a good question, so let me empower your journey with my words. I say I bless you in your journey, the angel of God will go with you, and he will choose with you the woman that must marry my son. Talk about words of blessing. Hey?

Then, ⁸ **And if the woman should not be willing to go along after you, then you will be clear from this oath; only you must not take my son back there. (Genesis 24:8).** So he is making sure Isaac is never going back, Isaac is never going back to the land that was before because there is no future in that land; you have to go forward in obedience with God. So this wonderful servant that served Abraham all of his life, he goes with all of the goods and the wealth and everything that Abraham gives him and he arrives at this land - that is the land of the descendants. And he finds a place to feed his camels, sheep, goats and when he arrives there, he finds this beautiful girl. And so this beautiful girl comes to serve him, and waters his camels and waters his livestock that are travelling with him. And in the process he gives her beautiful jewellery and so they have a conversation about who she is, ²⁴ **and she said to him, I am the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah and [her husband] Nahor (Genesis 24:24).**

So if you go back to my genealogy chart you will see, Nahor's name is there, so he came from Shem. Ok. I don't want you to necessarily go there, oh ok you there, (speaking about the slides on the TV). Oh, it's not on this slide, it's not on this slide. But Nahor's name is in there take my word for it (laughing)....

I just read it to you.²⁵**She said also to him, we have both straw and provender (fodder) enough, and also room in which to lodge.** So, ²⁶**The man bowed down his head and worshiped the Lord.** Because he recognized a divine connection. He recognized the divine providence of God in this connection. The girl - now this becomes very important. I want to know, is there anybody who watched the message this morning? You watched it? Okay, a little bit of it. So, this becomes very important. This is a very strategic time that actually has a lot to do with the future of our conversation and our discussion because,²⁸ **The girl related to her mother's household what had happened.** ²⁹**Now Rebekah, had a brother, whose name was Laban.** So, she's busy talking to the family about this man, and there's something about this man, and we've got to feed him and look after him, and this man has come a long way. But there is something about this man - we've got to look after him. And who's listening? Laban. **And Laban ran out to the man at the well.** ³⁰**For when he saw the earrings or nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and when he heard Rebekah his sister saying, The man said this to me, he went to the man and found him standing by the camels at the well.** ³¹**He cried, Come in, you blessed of the Lord!**

One thing about people who are – that have the Laban syndrome operating in them, and around them, and through them, is they know where the blessing of the Lord is. They know it. This is not the first time I've talked about the Laban syndrome. I've spoken about it before, especially in business school. So, he says, **³¹Come in, you blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside? For I have made the house ready and have prepared a place for the camels. "I" - ³²So the man came into the house; and [Laban] ungirded his camels and gave straw and provender for the camels and water to bathe his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³A meal was set before him, but he said, I will not eat until I have told of my errand. And [Laban] said, Speak on.**

Who does Rebekah belong to? To the father. Who's Laban? The brother. Why does he have anything to do with this? He's making business out of something that's not his business. Why do you think? Because he saw an opportunity where there's wealth and blessing and the favour of God. Mmmmm, we are going to get to 'the Laban....down the track, with Jacob.' So, he said, **"Speak on."** ³⁴**And he said, I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵And the Lord has blessed my master mightily, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks, herbs, silver, gold, menservants, maidservants, camels, and asses.** This is everything Laban ever wanted to hear in his whole life - That I can have a connection like this!

Let me just tell you something. It's one thing I have been very, very careful of, that has allowed my relationship with Brother Jerry to prosper, is because, I have never ever gone to any single, not one of Brother Jerry's partners who are pastors and preachers in America and asked if I could come preach in their church. Not one. And I never will. Neither have I gone to any of Brother Jerry's partners and let them know I have a ministry you might want to partner with. On the contrary, when the time came when Brother Jerry, closed his offices here in South Africa, I made certain, I told them, I said, "You take the entire database of information that regards everybody's names, of which there were more than 4000 people on that database. You make sure that that goes with you. I want nothing to do with it." Cause I do not want to have anybody accuse me that I wrote them a letter after Brother Jerry closed his office and say, "Why don't you come partner with me?" Even though some people might see that as an opportunity because he closed his office. What harm would there be if you sent a letter to all of Brother Jerry's partners and ask them to partner with you?

No, I had respect that they were 'called' to partner with Brother Jerry, they were none of my business. I know that is one of the reasons why Brother Jerry considers me to be a man of honour, is because I have never dishonoured him and tried to muzzle in on his relationships. I've never tried to get to Brother Copeland because of Brother Jerry. I have never tried to get to Brother Jessie or to Brother Keith or to Brother.....anybody, because of Him. I've never, on the contrary, Brother Jerry's been present in meetings when those men have made themselves available to me and they have spoken out of themselves and they have said, "John, invite me to

South Africa and I'm coming," and I'm waiting for him to say to me, "It's okay for you to do it." If he doesn't, I don't. That's my honour for the man.

Other people may not have that perspective, but I will not allow 'Laban syndrome' to be in my life. (Amen). (Directed to Pastor Sharon): "I'm glad you with me on that, baby." **Genesis 24:50** ⁵⁰Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The thing comes forth from the Lord, we cannot speak bad or good to you, ⁵¹Rebekah is before you; take her and go and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has said." **Genesis 25:5** ⁵And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. I want you to see that Isaac had three blessings that were given to him, he had 3 blessings. Hallelujah. He had the blessing that was given to him of: ¹the future - that was the blessing of God for his life. He had the blessing of: ²his father, to go and fetch his wife. Then he had a blessing: ³When he died, everything that was Abraham's, became his. Three blessings because he was the covenant seed of Abraham that all the nations of the earth were going to be blessed through. Right? So he was the 'blessed' seed. So he was the 'blessed' seed. Then he had a blessing because his father Abraham prophesied his wife into his life. Then he had a third blessing which was all the wealth that Abraham had, became his. Three Blessings.

Jacob had?... three Blessings. He had the blessing of the father, the blessing of the future and the blessing of identity change. Next week we will get into that for sure, but I had to tell you all of this because I have to tell you that when someone says, "I bless you," ...whose got the power to bless? The power belongs to God but if you are a delegated authority under the anointing that comes upon you to speak blessing, then God honours that blessing as though he were speaking it. This is not a casual, "Let me pray for you, Brother." Hallelujah. As a matter of principle, I am believing, (recording of 5 seconds unclear here)... that are properly aligned in authority, in the way that Melusi came to me and he said, "I am going to China." "Well, let me bless you China." You know, "Let me bless you on your way to China," because you know, I don't know how strategic this trip is going to be or not be. That's not... I didn't have a Word from God – that this is a strategic trip and God arranged this before the foundations of the earth for you. But do you understand what I'm saying? It's not that kind of blessing, as a matter of ongoing walk with God, he is under authority, he is going in authority and so he can be blessed in that authority. You understand what I'm saying? So, make sure that everything goes well with you, because everything's in order with you.

But there is a different kind of blessing when God says, "Now I'm creating order with your blessing." Hallelujah.

If the Lord has it, if the Lord allows me to and it's in His will, I would like to show you a recent teaching by Pastor / Brother Keith Moore and he talked about people in the church, shoo, powerful stuff. Maybe we will do it on the Glory Weekend. **And so, after the death of Abraham, God blessed his son, Isaac and Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi. (Genesis 25:11)** ...and the meaning of that word means: *a well to the living one who sees me*. So this is important, that when the Father Abraham died and became the Father of Faith, that there is a well there, that says, *the living one sees me*. And I want you to know, that when, because you are a believer, Jesus, the heavenly father sees you. He sees Jesus in you but he also sees you. He sees you

with Jesus in you but He sees who you are. He sees who you are in Him and your choices that you make to be in Him, He sees you.

And so, I conclude with this passage of scripture: **(Genesis 25:19)¹⁹and this is the history of the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah and the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban. So here, the Bible goes there and talks about Laban again,²¹and Isaac prayed much to the Lord for his wife because she was unable to bear children and the Lord granted his prayer and Rebekah, his wife, became pregnant; ²²two children struggled together within her and she said, "If it is so that the Lord has heard our prayer, why am I like this?" And she went to enquire of the Lord ²³and the Lord said to her, "The founders of two nations are in your womb and the separation of two peoples has begun in your body. The one people shall be stronger than the other and the elder shall serve the younger.**

So, there are just a few things I want to conclude with here today and I want to say that God selected Rebekah for Isaac, Yes? I mean I just got to really....God selected her. Do you think God knew when she was walking with the servant to go and meet Isaac, with camels, do you think God knew she was barren? (Congregation replies, "Yes") Why would he select her?a barren woman going to the father, of all the nations of the earth. Why? Because He needed to have His own faith experience in prayer with God, that will produce the future. You cannot live off anyone else's faith. You have to live off your own faith. Even if you are blessed in your future, you have to live with 'your' faith. And your faith will produce, double. Hallelujah. Glory to Jesus.

So, I am at the end of my time as far as tonight is concerned. I am also really gone to a lot of length to make sure that when we get to Jacob's Constellation, which we will talk about next week, we have a proper foundation for it because you have to understand what happened when Isaac prayed for his wife to fall pregnant, and when his wife Rebekah prayed to find out why these two children are wrestling in her womb and when the time came for Abraham to bless....for Isaac to bless Esau, Jacob said, "I can't afford to let this happen, because the birth-right has already been given to me, so the blessing is mine by birth-right. So he had the legitimate reason to go after the blessing, even though we focus on the deception, he had a legitimate reason to go after the blessing because the birth-right had been given to him. Hallelujah.

And that has everything to do with you and me, everything. And how Laban will try and control you and retain you because of the blessing that is upon you and he will try hold you to himself because he knows that you are the blessed of the Most High God and as long as you are around him, he knows that that the blessing will come on him. But the time comes when God will deliver you from Laban syndrome because you are about to have an identity change, with all the wealth that has come to you; anyway, that's for next week. Hallelujah. Won't you stand to your feet please. And when I stand in the delegated authority of God and when I stand here, blessing. So I'm going to ask you just to agree with me, right now, just agree with me:

Father I declare, that these are your people, (now you can just agree with me and I'll pray), that these are your people, and I thank you Lord that they are in proper order. And I

declare in the name of Jesus, that they are blessed going out and they are blessed coming into their households. That no weapon formed against them will prosper this week, in the name of Jesus. I thank you Lord that you give Your angels charge over them and they will not be caught in any hidden snares, in their life, in the name of Jesus. I also pray Father that this revelation, that has come to me, that You have given me, I pray that You will let this revelation explode and grow in their hearts. That it will become a harvest where the 'rhema' Word of God will come forth out of their mouths and it will create the future and it will frame their world because a great harvest of faith will come from the Word that is in them, that is my prayer and their faith will be used and be strong, and it will stay steady until the end. In Jesus' name. Hallelujah. Do you agree with this prayer? Do you believe this prayer? Say AMEN. Amen.

Before you go I would like to know,.... How many of you, at some time of the day, at some time of the week, are watching me prayer that I pray? Those of you who aren't, get them Lord, get them. You are missing out, it's four minutes. Four minutes and it's good hey? Ja, right bye.