

LIFE OF FAITH.

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Section 4. PERSONALITIES OF FAITH

Lesson No 6. OLD TESTAMENT PERSONALITIES OF FAITH

(i) ABRAHAM

(A) CALLED TO LIFE OF FAITH, LEFT HOME & FRIENDS FOR UNCERTAIN FUTURE

GEN 12:4 NIV So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

SEEMS TO HAVE LAPSED IN GOING DOWN TO EGYPT

(B) SEPARATED FROM LOT and gave him first choice of what he wanted

GEN 13:9 NIV Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

(c) INCORRUPTIBLE & refused gifts for services rendered

GEN 14:23 NIV that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.'

GOD WAS HIS REWARD

GEN 15:1 NIV After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, **your very great reward.** "

(d) MIGHTY PRAYER WARRIOR and had faith to believe to save Sodom

GEN 18:23 NIV Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city ? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?25 Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"26 The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."27 Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."29 Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For sake of forty, I will not do it."30 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."31 Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."33 When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

(e) RECEIVED PROMISE OF A SON

After trying to work something out with

(i) His steward

(ii) Hagar & Ishmael

(iii) He came to rest in God

HEB 11:11 NIV By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

**(f) WILLING TO OFFER SON ON ALTAR TO GOD**

HEB 11:17 NIV By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,

JOH 3:16 NIV "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**(ii) MOSES AND ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS**

**(a) FAITH OF PARENTS IN HIDING HIM, risking Pharaoh displeasure**

EXO 2:2 NIV and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.<sup>3</sup> But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. She placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.<sup>4</sup> Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it.<sup>6</sup> She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said

EXO 2:6 NIV She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.<sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"<sup>8</sup> "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother.<sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.<sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, he took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

**THIS WAS ACT OF FAITH**

HEB 11:23 NIV By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

**(b) CHOSE TO BE NUMBERED AMONG HEBREW SLAVES rather than Pharaoh's daughters child**

HEB 11:2 NIV This is what the ancients were commended for.

HEB 11:25 NIV He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.<sup>26</sup> He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

**USED FLESH & FAILED: FLED TO WILDERNESS FOR 40 YEARS**

**(c) CALLED BY GOD & stood against Egypt**

EXO 7:11 NIV Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts:

**(d) LEFT EGYPT & CROSSED RED SEA. Faith tested there**

EXO 14:21 NIV Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,

EXO 14:22 NIV and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

**(e) IN WILDERNESS GOD SUPPLIED CLOTHING, FOOD, MEDICINE & LAWS**

**Fed multitude** EXO 16:15 NIV When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

**MEAT PROVIDED FOR MULTITUDES**

NUM 11:19 NIV You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days,<sup>20</sup> but for a whole month--until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it--because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" "<sup>21</sup> But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!'"<sup>22</sup> Would they have enough if flocks

and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"<sup>23</sup> The Lord answered Moses, "Is the Lord's arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

#### **GODS GIVING EXCEEDED MOSES BELIEVING**

**NUM 11:22** NIV Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"

**(f) SPENT TIME IN PRAYER**      **Face shone with glory of God when came down.**

**EXO 34:35** NIV they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.

#### **INTERCEDED AND OFFERED TO BE MADE A CURSE TO SAVE NATION**

**EXO 32:32** NIV But now, please forgive their sin--but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

#### **(g) OPPOSED BY OWN FAMILY**

**NUM 12:1** NIV Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.

**NUM 12:3** NIV (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

**NUM 12:8** NIV With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

#### **MIRIAM PUNISHED BUT MOSES PRAYED AND SAVED HER FROM DEATH**

##### **(h) OUTPOURING OF HOLY GHOST ON ELDERS**

[**NUM 11:16** NIV The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you.<sup>17</sup> I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

##### **(i) PROVED GOD IN SUPPLY OF NEEDS FOR A NATION when at :**

#### **1. MARAH**

##### **Bitter waters made sweet**

**EXO 15:23** NIV When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah. )<sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"<sup>25</sup> Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them.

#### **2. MANNA & QUAILS in desert**

**EXO 16:13** NIV That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.<sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.<sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.<sup>16</sup> This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer each person you have in your tent.'"<sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.<sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

#### **3. REPHIDIM**

##### **WATER FROM THE ROCK**

**EXO 17:6** NIV I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

#### **4. MORE QUAILS AT TABERAH**

**NUM 11:31** NIV Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It brought them down all around the camp to about three feet above the ground, as far as a day's walk in any direction.<sup>32</sup> All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten omers. Then they spread them out all around the camp.<sup>33</sup> But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the Lord burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.

#### **5. KADESH BARNEA, faith of Joshua and Caleb seen in God**

**NUM 13:23** NIV When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs.<sup>24</sup> That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there.<sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

#### **SPIES BROUGHT BACK BAD REPORT .JOSHUA stood for Moses**

**NUM 14:30** NIV Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

#### **6. WATER FROM THE ROCK. Moses told to speak to rock**

**NUM 20:10** NIV He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?"<sup>11</sup> Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

**NUM 20:12** NIV But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

#### **7. FIERY SERPENTS BIT PEOPLE, but Moses made brass serpent & healed nation**

**NUM 21:4** NIV They travailed from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way;<sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in this desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food "<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.<sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.<sup>8</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."<sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

#### **(j) MOSES VIEWED PROMISED LAND but never entered it**

**DEU 34:1** NIV Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land--from Gilead to Dan,<sup>2</sup> all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the and of Judah as far as the western sea,

**DEU 34:4** NIV Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

#### **MOSES BY FAITH BROUGHT 600,000 through wilderness for 40 years**

**NUM 11:21** NIV But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!'

**(k) MOSES LIKE CHRIST in :-**

**1.FASTED 40 days**

EXO 34:28 NIV Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments.

MAT 4:2 NIV After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

**2.FED MULTITUDES**

EXO 16:15 NIV When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

MAT 14:20 NIV They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.<sup>21</sup> The number of those ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**3.ENDURED MURMURING OF PEOPLE**

EXO 15:24 NIV So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" MAR 7:1 NIV The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and

MAR 7:2 NIV saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed.

MAR 7:3 NIV (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.

MAR 7:4 NIV When they come from the market-place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles. )

MAR 7:5 NIV So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

**4.INTERCEDED FOR SINNERS**

EXO 32:32 NIV But now, please forgive their sin--but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

JOH 17:9 NIV I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

**5.REAPPEARED AFTER DEATH**

MAT 17:3 NIV Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

ACT 1:3 NIV After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

**BIBLE COMPARES THE TWO**

DEU 18:18 NIV I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

**(iii) ELIJAH**

**(a) FED BY DIVINE SUPPLIES**

**1.RAVENS**

1KI 17:6 NIV The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

**2.THE WIDOW**

1KI 17:15 NIV She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.

**3.THE ANGELS**

1KI 19:5 NIV Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."<sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for

you."8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days forty nights until he reached Horeb., the mountain of God.

**(b) MIGHTY IN PRAYER** Wife had child from God & restored to life

1KI 17:20 NIV Then he cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!"22 The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. \_\_\_\_\_

**(c) TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN IN WHIRLWIND**

2KI 2:11 NIV As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

SPIRIT CAME DOWN ON ELISHA who followed him in faith

**(d) LIKENESS TO CHRIST**

**CONQUERED DEATH BY FAITH AND BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE RAPTURE OF BELIEVERS TO HEAVEN IN LIFTING POWER**

**REV 11:10** NIV The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

**REV 11:11** NIV But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

**REV 11:12** NIV Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

EXERCISE No 6

1. WHAT FAILINGS ARE REVEALED IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM IN:

(a) Genesis 12:10-13 (b) Genesis 15:1-4 (c) Genesis 16:1-6 (d) Genesis 17:17-19  
(e) Genesis 18:1-15

2. SHOW THE FAITH OF ELISHAS from the stories in :

(a) 2 Kings 2:9-14 (b) 2 Kings 2:16-18 (c) 2 Kings 3:14-19 (d) 2 Kings 4:1-7  
(e) 2 Kings 4:18-36

Send your answers with s.a.e. to AVM, Mourne Ministry Centre, P.O.Box 1,  
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