

FROM DEAD END TO DELIVERANCE

Created to Dream: The 6 Phases God Uses to Grow Your Faith
Rick Warren

Abraham's Example of Faith

Phase 1: A DREAM (Age 75) Genesis 12:1-3

(God) "I will make you into a great nation"

Phase 2: A DECISION Genesis 12:4

"So Abraham left as the Lord had told him to"

Phase 3: DELAY (Age 86) Genesis 16:1

"But Sarah still had not borne any children"

Phase 4: DIFFICULTY (Age 99) Genesis 17:18

"How can a son be born to a man my age?"

Phase 5: DEAD END Genesis 21:1-6, 22:1-12

"Take your only son, whom you love, and sacrifice him"

Phase 6: DELIVERANCE! Genesis 22:12-14

(God) "Don't hurt the boy... I've provided a lamb"

What to Do When You Reach "Dead End"

Romans 4:17-20

1. REMEMBER

"Abraham believed in God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing." vs 17 (TLB)

"What is impossible with men is possible with God." Luke 18:27

2. RELY ON

"When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith . . . He relied on the word of God" vs 18 (PHILLIPS)

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

"Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be fulfilled . . . he did become the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised." vs 18 (PHILLIPS)

3. FACE THE FACTS

"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" vs 19-20

"We fix our eyes . . . on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:8

4. EXPECT

"But Abraham never doubted . . . he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was able to do anything He promised." vs 20-21 (TLB)

(Paul) "But this happened so we might not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead! He has delivered us . . . He will deliver us... (and) we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us" 2 Corinthians 1:9-10

Three Kinds of Deliverance

(1) Circumstantial (2) Personal (3) Ultimate (Heaven)

Next Steps

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