

Faith on Fridays—Faith and facts

Faith in Jesus makes up the Mechanics of Life.

*Abraham went on hoping in faith, relying on the promise of God that he would become “the father of many nations.” **With undaunted faith he looked at the facts:** his own impotence and his Sarah’s barrenness. Yet he refused to allow any distrust of God to make him waver. He drew strength from his faith, absolutely convinced that God was able to implement his own promise. (Romans 4:18-21)*

Many suppose that belief is contrary to reason, that to believe one must *bury one’s head in the sand*; you know, *blind faith*. After all, faith and facts don’t mix. Well, the story of Abraham and Sarah indicates otherwise (cf. Mechanics of Life). Note the words—“*he looked at the facts.*” The Greek word means: 1) *to consider from the bottom to the top*; 2) *to concentrate by fixing one’s thinking*; 3) *to perceive clearly*; and 4) *to understand fully and closely*. So, at least in the Manual faith looks facts *squarely in the eyes*; **BUT** ...

Consider the Law of Gravity, simplified. There’s a force that draws objects to the center of the earth ... unless another object of equal or greater force intervenes to inhibit the downward thrust. If you throw a ball in the air, it will drop to the earth **unless** you catch it in your hands. Your hands act as a greater force than the downward thrust of gravity. **Similarly, faith confronts facts with greater potency**, rendering the facts weak, comparatively speaking.

These were **the indisputable facts**: Abraham was *impotent* and Sarah was *barren*. According to the laws of physiology the odds of having a child were **ABSOLUTELY ZERO!** “Yet Abraham drew strength from his faith, absolutely convinced that God was

able to implement his own promise.” When Old Abe was confronted by the downward thrust of the facts (impotence and barrenness), he injected the promise of Father that *“he would become the father of many nations.”* **The power of faith trumps the laws of nature** (review Peter’s water-walking.) Please don’t think this vulgar or crude (it’s reality according to the Manual!), Abraham’s insertion of faith produced physical insertions for twenty five years!

As is often the case, if the facts of your life are exceedingly downward, please consider: *“Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don’t. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, **nothing is impossible**. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope!”* (John Piper)

Check back next Friday as we continue our **Faith on Fridays** series.