

BLESSED

Believing is Seeing

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (NIV84)

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (NIV84)

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (NIV84)

Matthew 21:22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (NIV84)

1. Believe when it's tough

Romans 4:18-19 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about a hundred years old — and that Sarah's womb was also dead. (NIV84)

2. Believe when you've made mistakes

Genesis 16:1-6 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." ⁶ "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. (NIV84)

Romans 4:20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God. (NIV84)

3. Believe when it's been a long time

Genesis 12:4 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 (NIV84)

Genesis 17:1-3 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." ³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him. (NIV84)

Romans 4:21 Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. (NIV84)

James 5:14-15 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (NIV84)

Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (NIV84)

Community Group Questions

To come later