

# The Christian Arsenal

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## HOW TO KEEP ON BELIEVING 50 DAYS OF FAITH

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Part 8 of 8

*“God does everything just right and on time but people can never completely understand what He’s doing.” Eccl. 3:11 (NCV)*

### HOW TO KEEP ON BELIEVING WHILE YOU’RE WAITING ON GOD

*“That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, ‘I have made you the father of many nations.’ This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who brings into existence what didn’t exist before.*

*“When God promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations, Abraham believed him. God had also said, your descendants will be as numerous as the stars even though such a promise seemed utterly impossible. And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though he knew that he was too old to be a father at the age of one hundred and that Sarah, his wife, had never been able to have children.” Romans 4:17-20 (NLT)*

#### 1. UNDERSTAND THE SIX PHASES OF FAITH

##### PHASE 1: A DREAM (Age 75)

(God) *“I will make you into a great nation ...”* Gen 12:1-3

##### PHASE 2: DECISION

*“So Abraham left as the Lord had told him to ...”* Gen 12:4

A dream without a decision is worthless and every dream of God has a risk to it.

##### PHASE 3: DELAY (Age 86)

*“But Sarah still had not borne any children ...”* Gen 16:1

A dream is never fulfilled instantly.

##### PHASE 4: DIFFICULTY (Age 99)

*“How can a son be born to a man my age?”* Gen 17:17

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## PHASE 5: DEAD END

*“Take your only son, whom you love, and sacrifice him ...”* Gen 21:1-6, 22:1-12

How do you know when you're at a dead end? You feel hopeless.

## PHASE 6: DELIVERANCE

(God) *“Don't hurt the boy ... I've provided a lamb ...”* Gen 22:12-14

### 2. REMEMBER WHAT GOD CAN DO.

The situation may be out of your control, but it's not out of God's control. So you don't focus on what you can't do. You focus on what God can do.

*“Abraham believed in God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing.”* Romans 4:17 (NCV)

Definition of a miracle: Either God gives life to something that was dead or He creates something out of nothing.

*“What is impossible with men is possible with God.”* Luke 18:27 (NIV)

### 3. RELY ON GOD'S PROMISES.

*“When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith ... He relied on the word of God ...”* Romans 4:18 (Ph)

How do you know when hope is dying inside of you? You start using the word never.

## TWO MEMORY VERSES:

*“With God everything is possible.”* Matthew 19:26

*“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”* Gal 5:6

When you come to a dead end rely on God's promises.

*“While God was testing him, Abraham still trusted in God and His promises so he offered his son Isaac.”* Heb 11:7 (LB)

## THREE REASONS ABRAHAM DIDN'T PANIC

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1. He believed that God would raise him from the dead. Heb 11:19
2. When he's telling his servant, We're going up the hill to sacrifice he said, "We'll be back," not "I'll be back." He fully intended for the son to come back with him.
3. When his little son Isaac was walking up the hill with him and he says, "Daddy where's the lamb we're going to sacrifice?" Abraham says, "The Lord will provide"

## HERE'S THE TEST FOR YOU:

What are you going to do when God says to you, "I want you to sacrifice your greatest dream?"

*"Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be fulfilled ... he did become the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised." Romans 4:18 (JB)*

God specializes in turning dead situations around and resurrecting situations that look hopeless when we rely on the promise of God.

A promise is only as good as the integrity of the promiser.

## 4. RECOGNIZE THE FACTS IN FAITH

*"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 ..."*  
Romans 4:19-20a (NIV)

*"Through faith he regarded the facts,"* Romans 4:19 a (GW)

Faith does not ignore reality. Faith is facing the facts in your life without being discouraged by them.

You cannot deny the diagnosis but you can defy the verdict.

An old Calvary rule: When the horse is dead dismount. Don't keep beating a dead horse! When a dream dies you just dismount and saddle another one because God's not through with you.

## 5. YOU REJOICE IN ANTICIPATION.

*"Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was*

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*completely sure that God was well able to do anything He promised.” Romans 4:20-21 (LB)*

When you thank God for something after it happens, that's gratitude.  
When you thank God for something before it happens, that's faith.

*“Father I thank you that You've already heard me ...” John 11:41, 42*

## **3 KINDS OF DELIVERANCE**

1. CIRCUMSTANTIAL – God changes the situation.
2. PERSONAL – God changes you.
3. ULTIMATE – God changes our place (Heaven)

*“We rejoice in the hope of glory of God.” Romans 5:2 (NIV)*

The world hopes for the best but Jesus gives you the best hope.