



## GENESIS

*Grace from the Beginning*

**25/26 November 2017**

Vol. 39, No. 48

# Our God Who Never Breaks His Word

*Genesis 15*

### **English Services**

*(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)*

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
Benediction

### **Filipino Service**

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda  
Tawag sa Pagsamba  
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit  
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Patotoo  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor Dags Miguel*  
Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



# Our God Who Never Breaks His Word

Today's Message (25/26 November 2017) /  
*Genesis 15*

FAITH UNDERSTANDS THAT PHYSICAL AND OTHER LIMITATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS THE UNDERLYING REALITY. WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, GOD CAN BRING TO PASS WHAT HE PROMISES.

What do you do when God's promises and their fulfillment seem a distant reality?

Abram's defeat of the eastern kings had left him no better off. Despite the promises, he did not as yet own any of the land nor had any children been born to him. His nephew Lot, whom he may have hoped to succeed him, was living in depraved Sodom, outside the land of promise. His most likely heir seemed to be his servant Eliezer. God, therefore, addressed Abram's disappointment directly.

1. THE A \_\_\_\_\_ OF  
A P \_\_\_\_\_ (VV. 1-6)

a. The P \_\_\_\_\_ of Fatherhood

- Despite God assuring Abram that He was his protector and greatest treasure, Abram wanted more (vv. 1-2). How often do we do that to God? The Giver presents Himself, but we ask for His presents instead.
- Yet God is unfazed by Abram's query and assures him lovingly that for God, a promise made is a promise kept (vv. 4-5). In fairness, Abram was perhaps more impatient than faithless (*Hebrews 11:11-12*). He was now 85 years old, and for 10 years he had been waiting for his promised son.

b. The P \_\_\_\_\_ of Faith

- Genesis 15:6 is one of the most important verses in the Old Testament in view of its usage in the New Testament (*Romans 4:3-25, Galatians 3:6-14*).
- Faith counts for (instead of) righteousness. Faith is the response of believing obedience to the word of God that is counted for righteousness, instead of righteous deeds. It is therefore right for the New Testament to use this verse in describing how salvation is available in Christ.



# Our God Who Never Breaks His Word

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*Genesis 15*

01. Paul stressed that faith for Abram meant believing in God's promise of a child, an attitude to God that preceded his acts of obedience (*Romans 4*). While Genesis implies that the sons of Abram must be men of faith, Paul turns the words around and explains "it is men of faith who are the sons of Abram" (*Galatians 3:7*).

02. Romans 4:5 says, "To the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness." *God, who justifies the wicked.* It is in this way that we need to see Abram. We need to look at him as the Bible shows him to be in order to explain his failures and sins. Yet it is in his failures that we can find comfort. For our failures and our sins are just as real as his were. Like Abram, we need to turn away from our own works to rely on God alone. This is why "He [God] credited it to him [Abram] as righteousness."

- So how was Abram saved? Not by keeping the Ten Commandments, for they had not yet been given. He was saved by faith in God and His Word.

2. THE A \_\_\_\_\_ OF A P \_\_\_\_\_ (VV. 7-21)

a. The P \_\_\_\_\_ of a Captivity

- Abram was given a vision of his descendants' destiny. God put him in deep sleep and he saw a smoking firepot and a blazing torch that symbolized the glory of God (i.e., the pillars of fire and cloud in Exodus 14:24) that would accompany Israel in the exodus. This is confirmed by vv. 13-16, which predict captivity in Egypt and the exodus. God's timescale for His promises was a long one. Abram was losing patience that little had happened in ten years (*Genesis 12:4, 16:16*) since the promise, but God was thinking in terms of 400 years! (v. 13)

a. The P \_\_\_\_\_ of a Covenant

## FINAL THOUGHTS

So what do you do when God's promises and their fulfillment seem a distant reality? You remember Abram. Abram could have cried out "I can't!" and he would have been right. Instead, Abram believed "God can!" and again, he was right. This perspective, which sees God as the touchstone of reality, is to characterize our faith. Faith understands that physical and other limitations do not apply to God, because God is the underlying reality. Whatever the circumstances, God can bring to pass what He promises.

As we learn to live by Abram's kind of faith, facing each test and trial with our eyes on God and His trustworthiness, God works to produce actual righteousness in us. The Holy Spirit produces in our lives the fruit of righteousness (*Galatians 5:18-23*) and creates in us the very holiness God promised will be ours ■

## Traditional Service (Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Giving  
Worship in Music  
Doxology  
Worship through Fellowship  
Scripture Reading  
Preparatory Hymn  
Worship in the Word  
Pastor Larry Pabiona  
Response Hymn  
Benediction

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

I praise God and thank Him for our speakers this past two Sundays, who covered for me while I was away leading an annual Holy Land pilgrimage with 44 people. This group is a mix of GCFers and some unchurched people, some of whom came to saving faith and were baptized in Jordan like Christ.

Thank you, Elders Noel Pabiona and Dan Cura, for giving such powerful sermons in our Genesis series! I had to content myself with downloading the audio files from our website to listen to them, but that did not lessen their impact on me. Incidentally, if you have friends who want to try out and listen to our messages, please ask them to go to [www.gcf.org.ph/sermons](http://www.gcf.org.ph/sermons) in their browsers so they, too, can participate in your study of the Word and hopefully sit beside you one of these Sundays for good.

## AN EARNEST APPEAL

On behalf of the Board of Elders, I am making this earnest appeal. You know that I must read a lot to prepare for our messages, and since starting with you in 2011, I have been reading with inward pain about a worldwide phenomenon that has been destroying missions: declining support for missionaries in evangelical congregations. I have been praying against this since 2011 until now. And until December 2016, we have

enjoyed a substantial surplus in our missions giving, but this seems to have lessened starting 2017. Our Missions envelope, the black one, is what sustains our missionaries. Will you prayerfully consider making a substantial gift for their sakes at the very next opportunity, as the Lord provides for you?

## ASKING FOR YOUR PRAYERS

People often come to me after the Service asking how they can pray for the church or for me. We appreciate you people so much! Here is a shortlist of prayer items you can intercede with the Lord for, on behalf of our church:

1. Our year-long 40th anniversary celebration this 2018, hoping to have Pastor Dave and PJ Yount for Anniversary Sunday in 2018
2. Our voting for incoming elders and deacons
3. Personal holiness and spiritual power for your pastors and their families
4. Our financial shortfall for Missions
5. Our 2018 strategies and budget to be presented at the December 3, 2017 Family Conference

May God bless you with answered prayers for these items ■

# Ablaze Devotional

**Therefore, since we have received an unshakable Kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may offer service that will please God, with reverence and fear. - Hebrews 12:28 (CJB)**

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*  
**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

Being thankful is having the awareness that grace is undeserved, acknowledging that life is sacred. It is gladly affirming that every good and perfect gift comes from God above. Gratitude disarms us from our anxiety to earn God's favor. Gratitude opens our eyes to see the reality of God's goodness to us and His beloved creation. It opens our hearts and hands to receive and experience how it is to live in His kingdom.

As we gladly affirm that "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above" (*James 1:17*) we also go against any sense of self-sufficiency. We trade our weariness in needing to share and serve for Christ's light and easy yoke. We lay at the throne of grace our bitterness against those who take from us, being thankful still for a service with a greater and lasting reward. As we receive God's good gifts, His grace transforms our receiving in an ability to give. God's grace open our hands to serve with the King, as it opens our eyes to His creative and redemptive work.

In light of this, we invite God to move through our thanksgiving and to let us be more open in acknowledging that we have nothing except what God gives. As recipients of His kingdom, may our lives be transformed into a life that reflects and welcomes His work, in us, and through us ■

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



### LIVING HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING AND UNCERTAINTY

*A talk by Dr. Yoyit Roldan for Cancer Patients*  
Nov. 26 (**today**), 12-3 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall  
Contact **0917 532 1921** to register



### NEVER ALONE♥♥♥AT CHRISTMAS

*Naomi Women Christmas Fellowship with Ms. Jojie Amparo-Miranda of GFM*  
December 2, 2017, 10 a.m., at BM07-08



### GCF FAMILY CONFERENCE

December 3, 2017 after the 10:30 a.m. service at Auditorium B | *Open to all official members of GCF included in the church roster*



### ELECTION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

*Election Days: December 9 and 10 (Sat. and Sun.)*  
For information regarding the elections, please contact Ms. Grace Mosquera, 632 1354 loc. 329.



### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*featuring "He Shall Be Called"*  
December 16 (Saturday): 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
December 17 (Sunday, **two services only**): 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 nn. *and* 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

*November 2017*

	November Budget	Received, Nov. 1-21
General	7,514,328	5,002,249
Missions	825,500	469,874
	Jan. - Nov. Budget	Received, Jan. to Nov.
General	91,848,066	72,927,600
Missions	9,080,500	8,997,163

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and faithfulness by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family and the Messiah College.*

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



*Love God, love others.*  
THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



Kirsten Fabellar has been going to church ever since her mother was pregnant with her. Ten years ago, she shared her testimony to the congregation about how anyone could pray for missionaries and be a part of God's Great

Commission, despite their age. At 14, she never would've thought that she would be on a short-term missions trip to Chiang Rai, Thailand as part of the Wetfoot Team.

Kirsten believes that if she truly loves God, she would love her neighbors as well. So she stepped out of her comfort zone and went on a short-term missions trip. Here she experienced spiritual battle, but through and in it, she also witnessed God's overflowing love and compassion for His people.

Coming back from the trip made her excited to share how God has changed her worldview and how God is working in her life. God called her to mobilize Christians that are of her age to prove that you don't have to be an adult to be a missionary. She knows that loving God more is the most loving thing she can do for others. She believes that if she loves God most, she is able to love others best. Kirsten prays that she will continue to be that way until the day He calls her home ■

*You may also bless others by sharing your own shepherding or discipleship journey in loving God and in loving others. You may e-mail your story to [lifejourney@gcf.org.ph](mailto:lifejourney@gcf.org.ph).*

**ON THE COVER:** A shot of the Milky Way galaxy from Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. The Delicate Arch, a freestanding natural arch, is superimposed (Pixabay). The Milky Way, so called because of its "milky" appearance, is our and our Sun's solar system home galaxy. It is home to an estimated 100 to 400 billion stars, and it is believed that it is just one of at least 100 billion galaxies in the whole universe.

## Join a GROWTH GROUP

### HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

### ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up  
Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

### GREEN MEADOWS GG

for Couples aged 40 up  
Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.  
at Green Meadows Subdivision

### NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

for Single Men aged 21-30  
Tentatively scheduled on Sundays,  
3-5 p.m. at GCF

### YACIES TUESDAY GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up  
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

### SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

for Boys aged 11 to 18  
Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multi-purpose Gym (6th flr.)

### Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123  
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.*

## How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

*Today is 25/26 November 2017, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## God's Way to Heaven

### THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."  
*(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).*

### THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" *(Romans 3:23)*.  
**Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" *(Romans 6:23)*.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" *(Romans 10:9)*.

**PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

### Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.



## Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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