



FRIEND
of
GOND

“Abraham Staggered Not”

- **We are awed & overwhelmed by this truth:**
 - Identify with Peter or Barnabas more than one we picture as having unwavering faith (Matthew 26:72; Mark 9:24; Galatians 2:13)
 - **We are painfully aware of the shortcomings in our own spiritual maturity!**
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- **What it is to “Stagger”**

- διακρίνω (*diakrinō*) - *Strong*’s: “To separate thoroughly, i.e. (literally and reflexively) to withdraw from, or (by implication) oppose; figuratively, to discriminate (by implication, decide), or (reflexively) *hesitate*.”
- *Thayer*’s: “To be at variance with one’s self, *hesitate, doubt* (cf. Mt. 21:21; Mk. 11:23; Rm. 14:23; Js. 1:6; Acts 10:20; 11:12; Rm. 4:20).”

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- **Abraham Struggled With His Faith—**
 - He sinned seriously (Gn. 12:13-19; 20:2-12).
 - He was impatient (Gn. 15:1-6).
 - He was willing to compromise (Gn. 16:2; 17:18).
 - **Abraham Reached a Turning Point—**
 - Romans 4:20-21 parallels Genesis 21.
 - The visitation of the Lord to Sarah (cf. 18:10).
 - Abraham ceased to waver (cf. James 1:6).
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“Abraham Staggered Not”

- **Why did Abraham Struggle So?**
 - He was afraid (Gen. 12:12; 20:11).
 - He was anxious (Gen. 15:2-3).
 - He wanted to please men (Gen. 16:2).
 - He was led by emotion (Gen. 17:18; cf. 21:11).
 - He was plagued by the consequences of his past mistakes (Gen. 16:5; cf. 21:9-13).
 - He was surrounded by doubters (Gen. 18:12-14).
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- **Abraham Overcame and Was “Strong”**
 - In order to be strong, we must be tested.
 - God tested Abraham (Gn. 22:1-18).
 - Mt. Moriah
 - The fire, the wood and a knife.
 - “Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”
 - “God will provide Himself a lamb” (vv. 5 & 8).
 - Abraham’s faith is settled (Heb. 11:17-19).
 - **Finally, God says “Now, I know...” (v. 12).**
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“Abraham Staggered Not”

- **“Against hope believed in hope...” (Romans 4:18)**
 - Against all probability he expected
 - Genesis 17:17.
- **“He considered not...” (Romans 4:19).**
 - Faith looks to God’s strength, not difficulties.
 - Genesis 18:14.
- **“Giving glory to God...” (Romans 4:20)**
 - Ascribe what is due Him and obey in all things
 - Genesis 21:33

FRIEND *of* GOD

- **“It was not written for his sake alone”** —
 - Romans 4:20-21 is a “snapshot”.
 - Genesis 15:6 is applied as a generalization (See James 2:21-24 which cites both Genesis 15 and 22, while Hebrews 11:8 references Genesis 12).
 - Abraham’s biography is preserved in order to give us encouragement.

FRIEND of GOD

- **“It shall be imputed if we believe...” (Romans 4:24).**
 - Our goal is to get to where we do not stagger.
 - “One step at a time...till faith grows stronger in Thee...till hope grows stronger in me.”