

I Still Believe the Vision
Genesis 15:1-6, II Peter 3:8-13
October 28, 2018

■ What good are God's promises?

1. The Abraham story

- When Abram was 75 years old, God gave Abram an awesome vision for his life. (Genesis 12)
- 5 or 10 years later, God speaks to Abram again. "I am your shield and your great reward." (Genesis 15)
- When Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, the promised son was born.
- Abraham and Sarah had to do their part.
- Abraham believed God. God fulfilled the promise.

2. God often seems slow in fulfilling His promises.

- Joseph
- Israel in Egypt 400 years.
- Wandering in the desert 40 years. (Didn't believe. Wouldn't do their part)
Finally, they entered the Promised land – under Joshua's leadership. (They did their part)
- David anointed king when he was a boy. Waited decades. (Did his part serving Saul and waiting on God.)
- David wanted to build a temple for God. (He gathered the materials.
Finally Solomon built the temple.
- Jesus in Gethsemene and on the cross. Psalm 22

3. God has given vision to WPC.

- "I will provide you with all the resources you need."
- *Epicenter of revival – ripples in a pond.
- *Light from heaven.
- ***** Shiny gold people

- 1,000 growing disciples. Internet. (donate)

3a. What good are the promises of God?

- Once all that seemed plausible.
- Congregational meeting today
 - Elders
 - Budget
- Maybe we feel like Abram in Genesis 15.

3b. We might be tempted to give up.

- Not do our part.
 - Election Day Outreach
 - Serve on Session
 - Pledge and give.
 - PRAY
 - Look for other ways to contribute.

4. But I still believe the vision.

- I believe the God who kept His word to **Abram** and blessed all the world through Him will also use us to bless many people – more than He has already.
- I believe the God who delivered **Joseph** from prison and made him the viceroy of all Egypt and the one who rescued his brothers will use WPC to save many people.
- I believe the God who brought the children of Israel **out of Egypt**, through the desert and into the promised land will keep his promises to us.
- I believe the same God who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us up from our dire situation.

4a. I still believe the vision, so ...

- I will serve with the Election Day Outreach
- I will continue to serve on the Session (until God calls me elsewhere)

- We will continue to pledge and give as God calls us to.
- I still believe the vision because God often leads His people through dark places before the vision is fulfilled.
- I still believe the vision because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.
 - And He has given me new life in Christ.
 - And if He can do that, He can do anything.
- I still believe God.
- I still believe the vision.
- The question I have is this. Do you?