

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

Promise is an agreement to deliver a future outcome. The credibility of a person who makes a promise depends in his/her track record. You will have more confidence in the promise when you have a good relationship with the person. A story was told when a father and his son were running for shelter in a war. They could hear gunfire and bombing getting closer. Suddenly, the father saw a big hole in the ground. He jumped right in. Then he asked his child to hop in quickly. The boy was scared. He said: "But dad, I can't see you." The man assured his son: "Don't worry. I can see you from here. I will catch you." The boy believed in his father's promise. He took a leap and fell into his dad's waiting arms. We cannot see God. But God sees everything and He is in full control. That is why He is trustworthy. In our previous study, we examined Abraham as the role-model of our faith. God chose Abraham to be the ancestor of the Israel race. Abraham believed in God's words, and so God credited Abraham as righteous. Abraham affirmed His faith by following God's command to undergo circumcision. That set off Abraham's faith journey with God. In our study today, Paul continues to explain how faith was at work in Abraham's life. The word "promise" appears in the book of Romans for the first time. Promise is the anticipated result of what God says. We as Christians also look forward to God's promises. To a certain extent, God's blessings to Abraham more than 4,000 years ago are still valid to us today. The same God who called Abraham also invites us to walk with Him by faith.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 以信心接受應許 Accept the Promise by Faith

By faith, Abraham accepted God's promise. Paul states in **verse 13**: It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. In this verse, Paul ties the concepts of faith, righteousness and promise together. Faith was the driving force for Abraham to believe in God's words. By faith, Abraham followed God's guidance to go to a foreign country. He also accepted God's covenant by faith. God thus credited righteousness to Abraham. He had a rightful standing before God. God told Abraham that He would bless him and his descendants. God's promises were the future blessings He assured Abraham. Abraham accepted God's promise by faith without any need to obey the Law. The Law was given through Moses 400 years after Abraham. Therefore, it was impossible for Abraham to obey the stipulations of the Law to earn his righteousness. It had to be the result of faith in God. Paul explains in **verse 14** why that is important: For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless. If God's promises are fulfilled through obedience to the Law, then there is no need for faith. A person would just work hard to follow one rule after another. Promise will also lose its meaning. The person has to set his/her goal to strive toward that target. Paul uses the concept of wage in the previous context to illustrate his point. When you go to work, you do not need faith in your boss that he will pay you. It is his obligation written in the contract! But God justifies people by faith, not by works,

because no one can obey the Law perfectly. However, God's promises were not for Abraham only. They are also given to all those who imitate after the faith of Abraham. Read [verse 16](#): Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. Whether Jews or Gentiles, all those who put their faith in God are saved by God's grace. They all become the spiritual descendants of Abraham. In this passage, Paul uses two different words to describe Abraham's children. They are “offspring” and “heir.” Offspring simply means descendants. Heirs are also offspring. But the word “heir” refers to someone who is entitled to an inheritance. If you are a Christian, then you are also a beneficiary of the same promise God gave to Abraham. Paul makes it clear in [Galatians 3:29](#) – If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Are you interested in knowing what inheritance you will receive? No, it is not about money or land. God told Abraham in Genesis that his future generations would be numerous. They would receive a piece of land. Also, all peoples on the earth would be blessed through Abraham. Those three promises were partially fulfilled in the Old Testament. From one person, Israel grew to a big people group. They later settled in Canaan. Not only the Israelites, but also those who came to know Jehovah through God's people were also blessed. For example, Gentile women like Rahab and Ruth eventually became earthly ancestors of Jesus. What we see in the Bible continues to happen today. Even though believers are always a minority in the society, more and more people come to know Christ. Thus, the spiritual descendants of Abraham keep multiplying. We as Christians become citizens of God's Kingdom on earth, regardless of what passport we hold. Through our work, God intends to proclaim His name. Hence, other people will receive God's blessings. The promises God foretold Abraham have been fulfilled in Christ. We are so blessed to become the heirs of Abraham. What happened to Abraham and Israel in the Bible are closely related to us. We as Christians received the baton from the previous generation of believers. Now it is our turn to pass down and magnify God's blessings. Christians are like heirs who have inherited a family business. Nowadays, heirs often carry a negative connotation. We read stories about some irresponsible children who squander easy money from their parents and grand-parents. But we as God's children should not lavish God's grace. We do not just enjoy God's blessings. We say that we accept Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. Sometimes we put too much emphasis on the “personal” part as if Jesus is our personal assistant. We only care about what our Lord can do for us. We seek help from Him when we have troubles. We should not forget that we also have the privilege and obligation to live like heirs of God's promises. Before people hear the gospel, they have to see the gospel living through our lives first. The way we handle our finance, how we raise our children and our value system all matter. God saves us in order to use us as channels of His blessings.

## 2. 以信心等候應許 Expect the Promise by Faith

Abraham accepted God's promise by faith. He believed that God would never fail him. Therefore, Abraham also expected God's promise to come true by faith. Abraham had to overcome huge obstacles to walk by faith. Paul tells us in [verse 18](#): 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.” It is quite an oxymoron to describe Abraham as a man who had hope against all hope. When Abraham accepted God's promise, there was no sign that any of God's blessings would be fulfilled soon. At that time Abraham had no son. How would he become the father of

many nations? That needs a lot of faith. Abraham had hope because he did not put his focus on the reality. Rather, he put his faith in God, trusting that He was powerful. Nowadays, we use “hope” quite casually to describe a favorable outcome we wish to happen. When we plan to take our kids to the park, we say: “I hope it will not rain on Saturday.” But of course, we have no control on the weather. Other people say: “I hope I can win the lottery,” even though the chance is lower than being abducted by aliens. But when the Bible talks about the hope God gives us, it refers to a confidence that is as sure as yesterday’s news. When God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants, He would carry it out in His time. In **verses 19-21**, Paul specifies the hurdles Abraham had to overcome: 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. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. Abraham was 75 years old when God called him to leave his home country. His wife Sarah was 10 years younger than him. Today, most people at those ages would be grandparents. People in the Bible time generally married and had kids earlier. Therefore, Abraham and Sarah should have been great-grandparents already! At that time, having no kid was considered a curse. It was quite fitting for Paul to say that Abraham and Sarah were like walking dead people. There was simply no hope for Sarah to conceive a child. But Abraham did not put his hope in himself and his wife. He put his hope in the Almighty God. Did Abraham’s faith stay strong after that? Unfortunately, no. Most of you know the subsequent stories. Nothing happened after one year, two years and so forth. After waiting for eleven years, Sarah thought perhaps they should do something to help God out. It turned out to be a disaster by using little human wisdom to hasten God’s plan. Sarah gave her maid Hagar to Abraham. Hagar gave birth to a son for Abraham. Sarah thought that the mission was accomplished. As long as Abraham had a son to carry on the family’s name, it did not matter who the mother was. Doing a right thing the wrong way is still a wrong thing. Ancient Chinese said it is a double blessing to have two wives. Abraham’s example tells us that two wives means double the trouble! When this concubine was pregnant, she despised Sarah, her boss, for being barren. Then Sarah complained to Abraham for causing the conflict. Who should take the blame? God intervened and blessed Hagar’s son and his future offspring. The tension between the descendants of the two women continues to this day. Israelites and Arabs are perpetual enemies. Thanks to Sarah’s brilliant idea! God did not need her assistance. He has His perfect timing. It was not until Abraham was 89 before God reassured His promise that a year later Sarah would give birth to a son. They both laughed in reaction. Abraham expressed joyful laughter. As for Sarah, it was perhaps a giggle of disbelief. It’s like when my children doubted what I told them: “Yeah, right! Till pigs fly.” God fulfilled His promise and Isaac was thus born. The name means “laughter.” What a good way to remember the faith experience of his parents! As Christians, we follow the footsteps of Abraham and put our faith in God. Paul goes on to say in **verses 23-24**: 23 The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Just like Abraham, we are justified through faith. In our usual terms, we say that we are saved. We believe in the salvation work God had accomplished through Jesus. He died on the cross for our sins, but God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day. Jesus Christ is the core of our belief. Abraham was more blessed than us in that he believed in God before he saw any evidence. If Abraham can speak today, he may comment that we are more blessed than him because we have the whole Bible in our hands. It is a testimony of our faithful God. However, very often our faith is weak. We only

believe in what we can see and feel. We put our trust in what we can understand and predict. The fact is, we do not need faith anymore if we have full control on everything. It is also problematic when we rely on personal feeling to convince us that God is working in our lives. We love to hear dramatic testimonies, like people walked out unharmed from serious car accidents or declared sickness free miraculously from terminal diseases. We shed tears and praised God. After the emotion subsides, then we wonder if God will lead us out of our difficulties. Thank God that He remains faithful to us despite our lack of faith. He will complete His plan in His time and fashion. Everything written about Jesus in the Bible had been fulfilled – His birth, His earthly life, His suffering and death, His resurrection and all the rest. Everything except one key thing. That is His second coming. Jesus told His disciples that not even He knew when it would happen. It is a top secret that the Heavenly Father keeps to Himself. Anyone who claims to know when Jesus will return must be a false prophet or God. If everything else said about Jesus in the Bible had come true, will His return eventually become a reality? Absolutely! God said it, and it would happen as He had planned. We need to expect God's promise by faith. It is not just about the future. We walk by faith every day. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. God's Word stands forever. Next time when you read the Bible, do not treat it like a novel about some unknown people. Instead, look at the Bible like a memoir of your ancestors. The same God who worked in their lives is also present in us today. God cares about us more than flowers and birds. He loves us with an everlasting love. He strengthens us when we are weak, and calms us when we have fear. He is willing to forgive us when we confess our sins. Every page of the Bible is full of God's promises. Over and again He proves Himself to be faithful. Read them, and convert those promises into prayer. Say to God: "Lord, I thank You for the wonderful things you did to many Bible characters. By faith, I believe the You will fulfill Your plans in me."

## 結論 CONCLUSION

The same God who called Abraham also invites us to walk with Him by faith. Abraham believed in God's promises by faith. God credited righteousness to Abraham. Today, God also justifies us when we put our faith in Jesus. By faith, we also wait patiently for the future glory in heaven. While we are still on the earth, we walk a journey of faith. Abraham had faith in God even though he did not know when God's promises would finally be fulfilled. Today, we built our faith upon what had happened 2,000 years ago in Jesus' work. The future has yet to come. But we can leap out in faith, knowing that God will be there waiting for us. I read somewhere that the African impala is an amazing animal. It can jump upward over 10 feet high and it can jump forward over a distance of 30 feet. However, this animal can be kept in a zoo inside a wall of only 3 feet tall. People do not have to worry that they will hop out and escape. How can that be? The reason is that while impalas have great capability to run and bounce, they will not dare to jump when they cannot see where they will land. Thus, these active animals can be safely contained like sheep. God calls us to follow Him by faith and not by sight. We can leap out in faith though we cannot see where we will land. We have assurance that God will be there waiting to catch us with His out-stretched arms.

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承諾是達成結果的協議。一個作出承諾的人的信譽取決於他過去的表現。如果你和那個人關係良好，那麼你會對他的諾言更有信心。一個故事講述了一個父親和兒子在戰爭中逃難。他們聽到槍聲和轟炸聲越來越近。忽然，父親看到地上的一個大洞。他馬上跳進去。然後，他要求孩子也趕快跳進去。那個男孩很害怕。他說：「但是爸爸，我看不到你。」那個人便向兒子保證：「別擔心。我可以從這裡看到你。我會把你接住。」這個孩子相信父親的諾言。他就往前跳，掉入父親的懷抱中。我們看不到神。但是神看到一切，祂也掌管一切。這就是為什麼祂值得信賴。在先前的學習中，我們將亞伯拉罕視為我們信心的榜樣。神揀選亞伯拉罕成為以色列人的先祖。亞伯拉罕相信神的話，因此神稱亞伯拉罕為義。亞伯拉罕遵循神的命令進行割禮，確認他對神的信心。那就展開了亞伯拉罕與神的信心之旅。在今天的學習中，保羅繼續解釋信心如何在亞伯拉罕的生活中起作用。「應許」這個字首次出現在羅馬書中。應許是神所說的預期結果。作為基督徒，我們也期待神的應許。在某程度上，神在四千多年前對亞伯拉罕的祝福對我們今天仍然有效。那位呼召亞伯拉罕的神也邀請我們憑信心與祂同行。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 以信心接受應許 Accept the Promise by Faith

亞伯拉罕憑著信心接受神的應許。保羅在第 13 節說：**因為神應許亞伯拉罕和他後裔，必得承受世界，不是因律法，乃是因信而得的義。**在這節經文中，保羅將信心、公義和應許三個概念連在一起。信心是亞伯拉罕相信神話語的推動力。亞伯拉罕憑著信心跟隨神的指引去一個陌生的地方。他也憑著信心接受神的約。神因此稱亞伯拉罕為義。他在神面前有了公義的地位。神告訴亞伯拉罕，祂會祝福他和他的後代。神的應許就是祂向亞伯拉罕保證將來的祝福。亞伯拉罕無須遵守律法，憑著信心接受了神的應許。律法是在亞伯拉罕之後 400 年通過摩西頒布的。因此，亞伯拉罕不可能透過遵守法律來賺取公義。它必須是對神有信心的結果。保羅在第 14 節解釋為什麼這一點很重要：**若是屬乎律法的人才得為後嗣，信就歸於虛空，應許也就廢棄了。**如果神的應許是通過遵守律法而實現的話，那麼就不需要信心了。一個人只要努力遵守一條又一條的規則。應許也就失去了意義。一個人可以設定他的目標並朝著那個終點努力。保羅在前面的經文中使用工資的概念來說明他的觀點。當你去上班時，你無需相信老闆會付錢給你。這是他在合同中答應給你的！但是神不是藉著行為，而是藉著信心來使人稱義，因為沒有人能完全遵守律法。但是，神

的應許不僅是給亞伯拉罕的。祂的應許也是給予所有效法亞伯拉罕信心的人。請看第 16 節：**所以人得為後嗣是本乎信，因此就屬乎恩，叫應許定然歸給一切後裔；不但歸給那屬乎律法的，也歸給那效法亞伯拉罕之信的。**無論是猶太人還是外邦人，所有信靠神的人都是靠神的恩典而得救的。他們都成為亞伯拉罕的屬靈後代。在這段經文中，保羅用兩個不同的用詞來形容亞伯拉罕的子孫。它們是「後裔」和「後嗣」。後裔就是指後代。後嗣當然也是後代。但是後嗣一詞是指有繼承權的人。如果你是基督徒，那麼你也是神對亞伯拉罕應許的受益人。保羅在加拉太書 3:29 中明確指出 – **你們既屬乎基督，就是亞伯拉罕的後裔，是照著應許承受產業的了。**你有興趣知道你將來會繼承什麼遺產嗎？那當然不是金錢或土地。神在創世記告訴亞伯拉罕，他的後代將會眾多。他們將獲得一片土地。同樣，通過亞伯拉罕，地上的萬國都會得到祝福。這三個應許在舊約中得到部分實現。以色列從一個人成長為一個大的民族。他們後來定居在迦南。不僅以色列人，而且那些因為神的子民認識耶和華的人也受到祝福。例如，像喇合和路得的外邦女子成為了耶穌在地上的祖先。我們在聖經中看到的事情今天仍然繼續發生。儘管信徒永遠是社會上的少數，但越來越多的人認識基督。因此，亞伯拉罕的屬靈後裔不斷倍增。無論我們持有什麼護照，我們作為基督徒都成為了神的國在地上的公民。通過我們的作為，神要宣揚祂的名字。因此，其他人將得到神的祝福。神預告亞伯拉罕的應許已經在基督裡實現了。我們很有福氣成為亞伯拉罕的後嗣。在聖經中，發生在亞伯拉罕和以色列的事與我們息息相關。作為基督徒，我們從上一代的信徒拿到了接力棒。現在該輪到我們把神的祝福傳下去並擴大。基督徒就像繼承家族生意的後人一樣。如今，繼承人常常帶有負面含義。我們看到一些不負責任的孩子，浪費了父母和祖父母的錢。但是我們作為神的兒女，不應揮霍神的恩典。我們不僅享受神的祝福。我們說我們接受耶穌為我們的個人救主和生命的主。有時我們過分強調「個人」這個含義，彷彿耶穌是我們的個人助手一樣。我們只在乎主能為我們做什麼。當我們遇到麻煩時，我們尋求祂的幫助。我們不應忘記，我們也有特權和義務活得像個繼承神應許的人。在人們聽到福音之前，他們必須先看到福音如何影響我們的生活。我們理財的方式、教養小孩以及我們的價值觀都很重要。神拯救我們，並使用我們成為祂祝福的管道。

## 2. 以信心等候應許 Expect the Promise by Faith

亞伯拉罕以信心接受神的應許。他相信神永遠不會讓他失望。因此，亞伯拉罕也以信心等候神的應許。亞伯拉罕必須克服巨大的障礙才能憑信心行事。保羅在第 18 節中告訴我們：**他在無可指望的時候，因信仍有指望，就得以作多國的父，正如先前所說，「你的後裔將要如此。」**將亞伯拉罕描述為一個在無可指望時仍有指望的人是挺矛盾的。當亞伯拉罕接受神的應許時，沒有任何跡象表明神的祝福會很快實現。當時亞伯拉罕沒有兒子。他將如何成為多國之父？那需要很大的信心。亞伯拉罕之所以心中有盼望，是因為他沒有把注意力集中在現實的困境上。相反，他相信

神，相信祂是大能的。如今，我們很隨意地使用「盼望」來描述我們希望發生的結果。當我們計劃帶孩子去公園時，我們說：「我盼望星期六不會下雨。」但是，當然，我們無法控制天氣。有些人說：「我盼望能中彩卷的頭獎。」儘管中的機會要比被外星人綁架的機會還要低。但是，當聖經談到神給我們的盼望時，這個把握與昨天的新聞一樣的肯定。當神應許祝福亞伯拉罕和他的後代時，祂會在祂的時間實現。保羅在第 19-21 節中指出了亞伯拉罕必須克服的障礙：**19 他將近百歲的時候，雖然想到自己的身體如同已死，撒拉的生育已經斷絕，他的信心還是不軟弱；20 並且仰望神的應許，總沒有因不信心裡起疑惑，反倒因信心裡得堅固，將榮耀歸給神，21 且滿心相信神所應許的必能做成。**當神呼召亞伯拉罕離開他的家鄉時，他已經 75 歲了。他的妻子撒拉比他小 10 歲。在今天，這些年齡層的人大多數都是祖父母。聖經時代的人們通常早婚並早生小孩。因此，亞伯拉罕和撒拉本該是曾祖父母了！當時，沒有孩子會被認為是一種詛咒。保羅形容亞伯拉罕和撒拉就像行屍走肉是很恰當的。撒拉完全沒有希望懷孕生子。但是亞伯拉罕沒有寄希望於他自己和他的妻子。他把希望寄託在全能的神身上。自此之後，亞伯拉罕的信心是否保持堅定？當然不是。你們大多數人都知道後續的故事。等了一年、兩年之後什麼也沒有發生。在等待了 11 年之後，撒拉認為也許他們應該做些事情來幫神一把。他們用人的小聰明嘗試來加速神的計劃，結果是一場災難。撒拉將婢女夏甲給了亞伯拉罕。夏甲為亞伯拉罕生了一個兒子。撒拉認為任務已經完成。只要亞伯拉罕有一個兒子來延續這個家庭的名字，母親是誰都沒有關係。用錯誤的方式做對的事情本身仍然是錯誤的。中國古代的男人都希望有齊人之福。但是亞伯拉罕的例子告訴我們，兩個妻子等於雙倍的煩惱！當這個二奶懷孕後，她就鄙視她的老闆娘撒拉不孕。然後撒拉為兩個女人之間衝突向亞伯拉罕抱怨。誰應該負責？結果神干預並祝福夏甲的兒子和他的後代。兩個婦人的後代之間的緊張關係一直持續到今天。以色列人和阿拉伯人成為世仇。多虧撒拉的絕妙主意！神不需要她的幫助。神有完美的時機。直到亞伯拉罕 89 歲時，神才向他保證，一年後撒拉將會生一個兒子。他們兩人都笑起來了。亞伯拉罕是喜樂的笑。至於撒拉，可能是一種難以置信的笑。就像我的孩子懷疑我告訴他們的話：「真的嗎？等到豬會飛的時候我便會相信你！」結果神實現了祂的應許，以撒就這樣出生了。他的名字的意思就是「笑聲」。這是記念父母親的信心經歷的好方法！作為基督徒，我們學習亞伯拉罕的榜樣，對神充滿信心。保羅在第 23-24 節中繼續說：**23 「算為他義」的這句話不是單為他寫的，24 也是為我們將來得算為義之人寫的，就是我們這信神使我們的主耶穌從死裡復活的人。**就像亞伯拉罕一樣，我們因信心而被神稱義。用我們通常的話說，我們得救了。我們相信神通過耶穌完成的救贖工作。祂為我們的罪死在十字架上，但三天後神使耶穌從死裡復活。耶穌基督是我們信仰的核心。亞伯拉罕比我們更加有福，因為他在看到任何證據之前就相信神。如果亞伯拉罕今天能夠講話，他可能會說我們比他更有福氣，因為我們有了整本聖經。它是信實的神的見證集。但是，我們的信心常常很軟弱。我們只相信我們能看得見和摸得著的東西。我們只相信我們可以理解和預測的事情。事實是，如果我們能掌握一切，我們就不再需要信心了。若我

們單憑個人感覺去相信神在我們生命中工作時，就很容易出問題。我們喜歡聽到戲劇性的見證，就像有人從嚴重的交通事故中毫髮未傷，或從絕症中奇蹟地治癒。我們流淚讚美神。在情緒消退之後，我們懷疑神是否會帶領我們脫離自己的困境。感謝神，儘管我們缺乏信心，神仍然是信實的。祂將以自己的時間和方式完成祂的計劃。聖經中有關耶穌的一切預言都已經應驗了 – 祂的出生、祂的生平、祂的受苦和死亡、祂的復活以及所有其他一切。除了一件關鍵的事情，那是祂的再來。耶穌告訴門徒們，連祂都不知道自己什麼時候會回來。天父把守這個最高的機密。因此，任何聲稱知道耶穌何時會回來的人大概是假先知或神。如果聖經中關於耶穌的所有其他預言都實現了，祂的再來最終會成為事實嗎？當然會！神說過的事，就會按照祂的計劃發生。我們需要以信心等候神的應許。這不僅僅是關於將來。我們每天都要憑信心而活。耶穌昨天、今天和明天都一樣。神的話存到永遠。下次當你讀聖經時，請不要把它看為與自己無關的小說故事一樣。相反，你應該把聖經當作祖先的回憶錄一樣來看。在聖經人物的生命中工作的神今天也同樣在我們的生命中工作。比起野花和小鳥，神更在乎我們。祂以永恆的愛愛我們。當我們軟弱時，祂使我們堅強；當我們恐懼時，祂賜我們平安。當我們認罪時，祂願意饒恕我們。聖經的每一頁都充滿神的應許。神一次又一次地證明祂是信實的。我們要每天花時間閱讀聖經，並將這些應許化為禱告。對神說：「主啊，我感謝祢為許多聖經人物所做的奇妙事情。憑著信心，我相信祢會為我實現祢的計劃。」

## 結論 CONCLUSION

那位呼召亞伯拉罕的神也邀請我們憑信心與祂同行。亞伯拉罕堅信神的應許。神就稱亞伯拉罕為義。今天，當我們相信耶穌時，神也稱我們為義。憑著信心，我們耐心等待天堂永恆的榮耀。當我們仍在地上時，我們走信心的旅程。亞伯拉罕對神充滿信心，儘管他不知道神的應許最終何時會實現。今天，我們把信心建立在耶穌在2000年前所做的事情上。未來還沒有來到。但是我們可以用信心來跨越，知道神會在前面等待著我們。我在某處讀到非洲羚羊是一種了不起的動物。它可以向上跳超過10英尺高，並且可以向前跳超過30英尺。但是，人們可以將這種動物困在僅僅3英尺高動物園的牆壁之內。人們不必擔心它們會跳出來逃跑。這怎麼可能？原因是，雖然非洲羚羊具有強大的奔跑和彈跳能力，但在看不到降落點的時候它們會不敢跳。因此，這些活躍的動物可以像綿羊一樣安全地被關起來。神呼召我們憑信心而不是憑眼見跟隨祂。儘管我們看不到我們將要降落的地方，但我們可以用信心跨越。我們知道神會在那裡等著，伸出祂的雙手來迎接我們。