



THE BIBLE LAB

## YES, NO & MAYBE

04

1. Never believe anything you hear, and only half of what you see.
2. The mark of the true believer is to have blind faith in God.
3. There are still some blessings that I am waiting for God to manifest in my life.
4. True faith is believing without much evidence.
5. You can be considered “righteous” before you make any personal sacrifices.
6. In order to truly believe, you need both faith and evidence.

### DIG DEEP

**READ: Genesis 15:1-8 (NIV)**

*After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” 2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”*

*4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

*7 He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”*

*8 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”*

∞ Does Abram believe because he has faith or because God gave him evidence?

» In order to **believe** in God, what is the role of **faith** and what is the role of **evidence**?

‡ What do God and Jesus provide...**faith** or **evidence**?

**READ: Genesis 15:9-21 (NIV)**

*9 So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” 10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” 17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi[e] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”*

How  
GOD  
LEADS

## DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

∞ Verse 10 begins with a commonly practiced oath ritual in which the one who swears that something is true or commits himself to carry out a promise passes between the halves of slain animals. In doing so, he calls for death to come upon him (like the animals around him) if he breaks his solemn word. In this case it is God who passes symbolically between the animal parts.

» What does it say about the character of God that *He* would be the one to walk through the slain animals and make a solemn promise to a man?

‡ How does God express His willingness to explain and come down to my level of understanding?

‡ At what point do I have to choose to understand and believe regardless of how much evidence I have?

∞ Verse 6 says, *Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.* Abram does not give evidence of his commitment to God until Genesis 17, when he is circumcised. How does God demonstrate the faith He wishes for us to have in Him by counting us as “righteous” before we have given Him complete evidence?

» What does that tell you about the character of God?

## NOTES

## TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How much evidence has God already given me in order to have faith in Him?
2. In what areas of my life am I not fully committed to His purpose for me?
3. What do I see more clearly about the character of God this week?



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