**Today’s Light**

Week 2 – February 8

**Monday, February 8**

Read Genesis 12:10-13:18

Zoom In – After you pray, read (and perhaps memorize) Romans 8:31-32. “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

**Tuesday, February 9**

Read Genesis 14-15

Zoom In – God gave Abram His word of promise. And in love and compassion, the Lord sealed His promises with something Abram could see. Still today God ties His Word to things we can see. In the bread and wine of the Holy Supper and in the water of Baptism, God comes to us to reassure us. The Sacraments are His visible word of promise. Through them, He seals His covenant with us. Thank Him for these Means of Grace today.

**Wednesday, February 10**

Read Genesis 16-17

Zoom In – How do you see your God today? Is He the “God who is strong enough” to help in all times of need? And do you see yourself as the “royal priesthood” He has declared you to be in Christ (1 Peter 2:9)? If so, what difference does it make now, today? How does it affect your “JQ” – joy quotient?

**Thursday, February 11**

Read Genesis 18-19

Zoom In – In interceding for Sodom, Abraham is a picture of Christ, or, more technically, is a “type” of Christ. (See Romans 8:33-34.) Even as Jesus prays for you, so you can intercede for your town, city, and nation. What will you ask today?

**Friday, February 12**

Read Genesis 20-21

Zoom In – While God is never in a hurry, neither is He ever late. Isaac was born when God promised, “at the time of which God had spoken to him” (Genesis 21:2). Jesus was born “when the fullness of time had come” (Galatians 4:4). You can trust your Lord to act on your behalf at just the right time too. Relax today in that truth.

**Saturday, February 13**

Read Genesis 22

Zoom In – Often Christians new to Bible study skip over the genealogies as “boring” or “irrelevant.” Genesis 22:20-24 may fall into that category. But note verse 23. All the while God worked with Abraham in Canaan, He was also at work five hundred miles away in Haran, where some of Abraham’s family still lived. Isaac would need a godly wife so that the messianic line could continue. Rebekah would be that wife.

**ABRAHAM’S FAITH – AND OURS**

Sometimes life’s events lead us to the brink of a bottomless pit. Our toes on the edge, we teeter back and forth between faith and fear, between confidence in our Lord’s care and the despair that He will let us down.

Abraham knew that particular precipice well. If you doubt that, you haven’t been paying attention! Twice, famines led Abraham into deliberate lies that compromised his witness and placed Sarah in danger of rape (Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18). The incident of chapter 20 also could have compromised the world’s salvation; it happened after the Lord set a one-year time limit for the birth of the son of the covenant (18:10). Had Abimelech had sexual intercourse with Sarah even one time, who could have known for sure whether Isaac descended from Abraham by God’s promise or from Abimelech through Abraham’s cowardice?

Was Abraham’s faith phony? No. Was Abraham God’s child during these times of immature, childish unbelief? Of course! For Abraham as for us, the Lord’s abundant grace covers each and every sin. Still, when we, like Abraham, live in doubt and fear, we cut ourselves off from the abundant life, the confident, joyful life, our Lord wants for us. (Imagine Abraham pacing back and forth all night wondering and worrying about Sarah while Abimelech dreamed the dream of 20:3-7!)

Abraham’s life story shows us God’s grace in its fullness. It gives us hope in another way too. Abraham grew up, spiritually speaking. When we compare the immaturity and fear of Abraham in Genesis 12 and 20 with his obedience in Genesis 22, we can hardly believe this is the same man! The Lord has been at work, forming, shaping, and maturing His servant.

As we look back at our own failures of faith, we need not despair. The God who forgave and matured Abraham will also forgive and mature us! Do you face a challenge of faith today? Let your heavenly Father reach out through the darkness to take you by the hand. Ask Him to teach you day by day how to walk by faith. Ask for the maturity for which you long. He will grant it – and you will find yourself surprised by His strength that will comfort and sustain you in times of joy and on the darkest days.