

*A Journey of Faith (Part 3)*  
*A Study of the Life of Abraham*  
(Gen. 13)

*“Dealing with the Stress Marks on Your Faith”*

**Introduction:** Abram was faced with the decisions of how to deal with 3 stresses that leave a mark on every Christian’s faith. Because of Abram’s devotion to being a great man of faith, he made some good decisions. By studying Abram’s decisions, we learn the best way of *dealing with the stress marks on our own faith.*

**I. Abram teaches us how to deal with the stress of past faith failures: (v.1-4)**

1. **What was the reason for Abram’s past faith failures** – Abram learned every time he stopped using the word of God as his guide to the will of God, he had a faith failure in his life.
2. **What was the result of Abram’s faith failures** – Abram learned many lessons from his past faith failures. (1 Jn.1:9).
3. **What was the Abram’s response to his faith failure** - Abram decided to retrace his steps of failure and return to faith in God.

**II. Abram teaches us how to deal with the stress of present faith friction: (v.5-17)** For- given and restored back to God, Abram faces a bright future – but it isn’t long before he faces more friction.

1. **Abram sees the stress of the present friction** – (v. 5-7) There were two areas of friction present; both were a result of Abram’s past sins.
  - a. There was a family friction –
  - b. There was a financial friction –
2. **Abram solution to the stress of the present friction** – Abram decides to be a peace maker instead of a trouble maker.(Mt. 5:9; Rom.12:18)
  - a. The child of God does not insist upon their way or their rights

- b. Abram simply put the friction and the future into God’s hands. Having met with God, Abram knew everything was under His control.

**3. Abram shows character in the presence of friction** - Conflict does not build character – it reveals it!

The best way to deal with the stress marks of present friction on your faith – is to look to the Lord, believing He has it all under His control!

**III. Abram teaches us how to deal with the stress of things that persistently fight our faith: (v.18)** (Abram saw two things when he looked over the land.)

- A. **The land he would possess** – In our journey of faith. We have much in Jesus, but we have to claim it by faith.
- B. **The enemies that were present** – (v.7b)
  1. The same opportunities confront us in our day!
    - Satan is still present in this world today.
    - We have been made more than conqueror’s but for there to be a conqueror there must be conflict.
  2. The best way to handle the stress marks of the things that persistently fight to divert our faith (1 Pe.5:8,9a) God honors the faith of His people, because the faith of His people honors Him!)

**Conclusion:** Our journey of faith may be marked by past failures and forgiveness – that’s okay so long as we’re building on them. Our journey of faith will include friction from many different sources – that’s okay, the promise of faith does not eliminate the presence of friction. Faith simply provides the peace we need to deal with it. Our journey of faith will be filled with things that threaten to distract us from our devotion to God. Don’t let them – stay devoted to faith in God and you’ll find yourself capable of dealing with the stress marks on your faith.