

It takes about 5 minutes of watching the news to become concerned with the circumstances in our country. Farmers in this nation are facing historically difficult agricultural conditions. Political tensions between our major political parties grow greater with every passing day. Then we have foreign tensions. Fighting flaring in the Middle East. Trade wars with China. The winds of peace and prosperity that we have been breathing in the United States for the last 70 years seem to be changing. How should the Christian respond to this?

As I talk with Christians, it seems that most are discouraged, some even despairing. Farmers are fearful of losing their life's work. Many people are concerned that political tensions will boil over. Some insist that the end is near, and we better get ready for the rapture. Are these appropriate responses for the Christian? What does the Bible have to say about these things?

I recently finished preaching through the story of Abraham. If you know about Abraham, then you will know that he is held up in the New Testament as a model of faith. Really, the father of faith. The father of all who believe. The last few chapters of the story of Abraham, record how God fulfilled, in part, every promise made to Abraham. Abraham didn't see descendants as numerous as the stars, but he did see 8 sons, plus grandsons. Abraham didn't see a multitude of nations come from his loins, but he did see more than 1. Abraham didn't see the property deed to the whole promised land, but he did get the deed to his burial site.

Looking back on the rest of Scripture, we can see that God fulfilled all of His promises to Abraham. And the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11, holds up Abraham as a model of faith. The story of Abraham should foster faith in our hearts, that God is in control, and that God has a plan. Despite the trials and apparent disasters of the world around us, the Bible calls us to faith. Not an empty faith. We have the story of Abraham, and countless others, demonstrating that our God is trustworthy and true. That God is faithful.

Maybe you noticed that I said we have had 70ish years of peace and prosperity in this nation. If you know your history, before this long period of prosperity, we had a World War. World War II was fought less than 100 years ago. Right before that, our nation faced the Great Depression. A few years before that was World War I. A few years before that we fought the Civil War. A few years before that, British soldiers burned the White House to the ground. A few years before that we fought the American Revolution. With the current exception, our nation has faced a major trial, basically every 50 years.

If you trace back the history of our nation, you will quickly see that every century contained significant and severe trials. Because the lull may be over, and we may be facing more, does not mean God is no longer faithful. God was faithful to Abraham. God was faithful to our fathers who lived through difficult times in the past, and God will be faithful to us, no matter what trials lay ahead. Will we be people of faith in those trials? Will we be sons of Abraham? Will we show that our



faith has been built on the Rock? Or will we show that through all these years of prosperity, we were actually building our house on the sand? Trust the Rock. Trust our God. He has never failed us before, and He will not fail us now, whatever lays before us.

Sincerely,

A Podunk Pastor

*-by Pastor Josh Emmel, Faith Baptist Church, Kenmare, ND*