Introduction

“Do not be afraid.”
- Do not fear is the most common command in Scripture.
- Second most is the command to love.

I. GOD KNOWS OUR FEARS.

Genesis 15:1-5

What was Abraham afraid of?
How did God answer Abraham’s fears?
- “I am your shield.”
- “I am your very great reward.”

God is our protector and provider.
- Nothing can happen to us except what he allows.
- Nothing can separate us from his love. Romans 8:38-39

Abraham’s greatest fear was that he would die without a son or daughter.

What is your greatest fear?

It seems that we are a fearful and anxious people.
What can we do with our fears?
We need to give God our fears.
II. GOD CREDITS FAITH IN HIS PROMISES AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.  
GENESIS 15:6

Verse 6 is one of the most important verses in Scripture for it tells us how we can be right with God.

It is quoted 3 times in the New Testament. Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6 and James 2:23

- Abraham believed God. He took God at his word and acted on it.
- The Lord credited it to him as righteousness.

“...The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”  Galatians 3:8-9

Abraham was saved by grace through faith just as we are.

What we learn from the Scriptures is:

- Faith is what God approves.  Hebrews 11:1-2, 6
- Faith is what overcomes our fears.  Psalm 34:4-7
- Faith believes that what God has promised he will do.  Romans 4:21

III. GOD GUARANTEES HIS PROMISES BY A COVENANT  
GENESIS 15:7-21

“I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans...”

It is the same formula found in Exodus 20:2 where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

The form of the covenant was one that was typical of the age in which Abraham lived.

- Abraham was asked to make the preparations.
- God would fulfill his promises in spite of opposition and suffering.
- God is patient in judgment. The sin of the Amorites had not yet reached its full measure.
- Normally when the covenant was made both parties would walk between the animals. In this case, God alone passes between the pieces.
It is like the covenant God makes with us.
• It is a covenant of grace.
• It is made by God himself.
  He paid the debt we owed.
• It is an eternal covenant.

Conclusion

What are the fears you have?
Have you given them to God?
Will you trust in his promises to you?
Faith is the answer to our fears.