

How to Prevent Delay

May 31, 2026

How to Prevent Delay — Abraham’s Instant Blessing

Romans 4:3 (NKJV) — opening verse

For what does the Scripture say? “**Abraham believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Pentecost Sunday — Romans 4 is about **Abraham, faith, and righteousness**. Two steps to instant blessing: (1) understand faith & righteousness · (2) understand what changed at **99**.

Pentecost	When	What happened
1st (Sinai)	50 days after Egypt	3000 died
2nd (Upper room)	50 days after ascension	3000 saved (Peter preaching)

Letter kills · Spirit gives life — Moses vs Jesus (Romans / 2 Corinthians 3).

Matthew 7:11 (KJV)

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Abraham’s Calling

- Age **75** — first promise & stars
- Age **99** — *El Shaddai* appears; delay ends
- Fully convinced God performs what He promised

Genesis 12:2 (KJV)

And I will make of thee a **great nation**, and I will **bless thee**, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be **a blessing**.

Genesis 17:1 (KJV)

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Romans 4:21 (NKJV)

and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform .

Romans 4:17 (NKJV)

(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

Two Fruits — Law vs Life

- Eden: fruit of *good & evil* vs fruit of **eternal life**
- Law = knowledge of good & evil (old covenant — Romans)
- God’s word = food · when you hear it, you eat spiritual fruit

John 14:6 (KJV)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV)

who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.

Part 1 — Age 75 to 85

God promised a generation at **75**. Isaac came at **99** — 25 years later. First understand *faith & righteousness* (Part 1), then what changed at 99 (Part 2).

Characteristics of Abraham at age between 75 to 85

The *first change* at 75 — stars shown, righteousness credited. Yet delay continued because Abraham still mixed **his strength** with God's.

Characteristic	Detail
Stars & gospel	Believed the Seed (Christ) — Genesis 15
Righteousness	Counted righteous <i>before</i> Isaac came
Mixed power	Sufficient God — but <u>not all-sufficient</u> yet
70% self + 25% God	Own effort + faith → delay
Fear steps	Sarai as <i>sister</i> · brought Lot

1□ Knowing the Gospel

- Gospel preached to Abraham **before** the law (Galatians 3:8)
- Word must be mixed with *faith* — or it doesn't profit (Hebrews 4:2)
- Israel: 40 years delay · Joshua: instant possession
- The **Seed** is Christ — one, not many (Galatians 3:16)

Stars shown twice — meditate on the difference:

When	Reference	Focus	Faith & righteousness?
1st (age 75)	Genesis 15:5-6	The Seed (Christ) — gospel	Yes — counted righteous
2nd	Genesis 22:17	Generations / Isaac to come	Not mentioned — child promise

- Hebrew **saphar** (סָפַר) — “count the stars” also means *declare, tell, proclaim* the gospel
- Look at the stars → proclaim Christ’s story (not astrology)
- True faith = believe Jesus died for every iniquity → that is your righteousness

Gospel in the stars (Virgo → Leo — Christ’s journey):

- Virgin birth → price paid → enemy trampled → conquering rider
- atoning sacrifice → living water → fishers of men → Lamb of God
- Messiah’s strength → God & man → shepherd’s care → **Lion of Judah**

Psalm 19:1 (KJV)

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Luke 10:19 (KJV)

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Revelation 5:5 (KJV)

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Hebrews 4:2 (KJV)

For unto us was the **gospel preached**, as well as unto them: but the word preached **did not profit them**, not being **mixed with faith** in them that heard it.

Hebrews 3:18-19 (KJV)

And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they **could not enter in** because of **unbelief**.

Hebrews 4:1 (KJV)

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of **entering into his rest**, any of you should seem to **come short of it**.

Galatians 3:8 (KJV)

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify the heathen through faith**, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

John 8:56 (KJV)

Your father **Abraham rejoiced** to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

Genesis 15:5-6 (NKJV)

Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and **count** the **stars** if you are able to **number them**." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he **believed in the LORD**, and He **accounted it to him for righteousness**.

Genesis 22:17 (NKJV)

I will bless you, and I will **multiply** your **descendants** as the **stars of the heaven** and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your **descendants** shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

Now to Abraham and his **Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, "And to **seeds**," as of many, but as of one, "And to **your Seed**," who is **Christ**.

Genesis 22:18 (NKJV)

In your **seed** **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice.

Genesis 15:5-6 (KJV)

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Romans 4:3 (KJV)

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 4:3 (NKJV)

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

2□ Righteousness Apart from the Law

Promise = through **faith**, not law. Works not → believe → righteousness counted.

Romans 4:5 (KJV)

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:13 (NKJV)

For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

3□ Sins Are Forgiven

Blessed — lawless deeds forgiven, sins covered.

Romans 4:7 (NKJV)

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

4□ Shall Not Impute Sin

Romans 4:8 (NKJV)

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.

Romans 4:22-24 (KJV)

And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Part 2 — Transformation at Age 99

At 99, God appeared as *Almighty God* (Genesis 17:1). Three changes ended 25 years of delay — **instantly**.

Characteristics of Abraham at age 99

#	Change	Summary
1	Hope	Spoke God's word · new name Abram → Abraham
2	Faith	100% Christ on cross · Hey (יְהוָה) = grace
3	El Shaddai	All-Powerful, All-Sufficient — not by my might

- Weak, almost ready to die — yet blessed *instantly* at 99
- My power + His power = delay · **Spirit alone** = instant blessing

1. Hope

Hope = proclaim my life *will change* — speak what God says, not what circumstances show. God renames — new identity ends delay.

Old name	New name	Meaning
אֲבְרָם Abram	אַבְרָהָם Abraham	Father of many nations
סָרַי Sarai	סָרָה Sarah	Princess

- Spoke “**father of nations**” with zero children

- What you speak today shapes tomorrow

James 3:4-5 (NKJV)

Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

Genesis 17:5 (KJV)

Neither shall thy name any more be called **Abram**, but thy name shall be **Abraham**; for a **father of many nations** have I made thee.

Genesis 17:15 (KJV)

And God said unto Abraham, As for **Sarai** thy wife, thou shalt not call her name **Sarai**, but **Sarah** shall her name be.

2. Faith

Faith = Christ already finished it on the cross — healing, righteousness, victory. Not blessed by qualifications; by grace through Christ.

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- Hebrew **Hey** (ה) added = grace / undeserved favour

	Hope	Faith
Speaks about	My life <i>will change</i>	Already <u>done on the cross</u>
Proclaims	What God says about my future	Victory received in Christ
Who has it?	Everyone has hope	Believers in Christ alone

3. El Shaddai

El Shaddai — All-Sufficient, All-Powerful God. Not by my might nor power — by Spirit alone. 25 years of delay ended instantly.

Mixture	Result
My power + His power	Delay
100% His power — Spirit alone	Instant blessing

- Green = My Power · Red = His Power — *no mixture*
- Lied, brought Lot, Sarah lied — yet faith in Christ counted for righteousness

Genesis 17:1 (KJV)

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

Romans 4:13-14 (KJV)

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

Galatians 3:29 (KJV)

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Gospel in the Stars — Visual Guide

Abraham looked at the stars and *declared* the gospel (not astrology). Full teaching: The Gospel in the Stars.

Final Thought

- Part 1 (75–85): know gospel · righteousness · sins forgiven
- Part 2 (99): **1. Hope · 2. Faith · 3. El Shaddai**
- Delay → **instant blessing**. Amen.