



John's Schedule

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Abraham - Biography



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There are few among us that have not been touched over the years by Radio Bible Class and its Day of Discovery and Daily Bread ministries. Few of us ever met the man who led that ministry for the past many years. He was the son of the founder M.R. DeHann. Alzheimers crippled and ended the conscious ministry of Richard W. DeHann last year. During his long struggle with this debilitating disease this poem hung on the wall of his office.

*Courage, Brother, do not stumble,
Though your path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble,
Trust in God and do the right.*

*Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely, strong or weary;
Trust in God and do the right.*

*Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light;
Whether losing, whether winning
Trust in God and do the right.*

*Trust no party, sect or faction,
Trust no leaders in the fight;
But in every word and action
Trust in God and do the right.*

*Simple rule and safest guiding,
Inward peace and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding;
Trust in God and do the right.*

*Some will hate you, some will love you,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above you,
Trust in God and do the right.*

By Norman Macleod

Life is a Struggle

Did you know all of life is a struggle? Are you feeling perhaps more keenly now than ever before? As Christians we are called to STRUGGLE TOGETHER. In fact, that is one of the ways Paul describes us as Christians.

- [Salvation begins as a Struggle Luke 13:24](#) Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (KJV)
- [Prayer can be a struggle Romans 15:30](#) I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. (NIV)
- [Self control and discipline should be life long struggles](#) First [Corinthians 9:25](#) And every man that striveth for the mastery [competes in the games NIV] is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. (KJV)
- [Disciple making ministry is a struggle Colossians 1:29](#) To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. (NKJV)
- [Intercessory prayer is a struggle Colossians 4:12](#) Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (NKJV)
- [Holy living is a life long struggle 1 Timothy 6:12](#) Fight the good fight [agonizidou agona] of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (NKJV)
- [All of life in Christ to the Apostle Paul was a struggle 2 Timothy 4:7](#) I have fought the

AGONIDZOMAI, the word we have been seeing in these verses is translated into English AV - strive 3, fight 3, labour fervently 1; 7
It means:

- 1) to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games
 - 2) to contend with adversaries, fight
 - 3) metaph. to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers
 - 4) to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something
- And that is what we are called to as Christians!

Abraham struggled as he learned to wait. He waited 25 years to see the promises of God fulfilled. Abraham is a fellow pilgrim struggling on the road of faith. He grew in faith waiting for what had been promised.

The Path of Suffering

We have been studying the lives of fellow strugglers in this Sunday evening series. Each of them have been so powerful as God exposes their lives in the Scriptures.

1. **Job** struggled to See God, and through his pain and he saw Him as never before.
2. **Paul and Silas** struggled to sing through persecution and learned to worship God from prison.
3. **David** struggled through depression and learned more about God in his darkest days than ever before.
4. **Joseph** struggled to keep his life pure and was purified by God and greatly used.
5. **Moses** struggled to be content and was satisfied by the very face of God.
6. **Abraham** struggled to wait for God and when he did became the father of the faith.

Abraham lived in an ancient city called Ur. Nearly 4000 years ago, when God first appeared to Abraham, Ur was one of the most important cities in the world. It was a busy commercial center located in the country of Mesopotamia on the Persian Gulf and bordered by the Euphrates River.

The city covered about four square miles and had a population of about 300,000 people. History records, and archaeology confirms, that many of these people were highly educated. They were proficient in mathematics, astronomy, weaving and engraving. Furthermore they preserved their ideas by writing on clay tablets, which have been invaluable to archaeologists in reconstructing the social and religious life of these people.

Like the rest of the world, Ur was polytheistic. The people worshiped many gods, particularly nature gods. But in the center of Ur was a large worship center or temple called a ziggurat. It was here that the people worshiped their chief deity, a moon god called Nanna.

Abraham no doubt lived with his family outside of the city of Ur. Terah, Abraham's father, was a shepherd who had settled in the rich pasturelands surrounding the city (4).

As we look at every day life in the 21st Century, B.C. that is, we find that it has not changed much. God's friend Abraham was faced with the same daily struggle each of us must endure. Let us examine the TEN SPECIFIC STRUGGLES he went through and seek to learn a lesson for our lives from each. We might summarize each of his struggles as a question God was asking him. We may be asked the same questions so lets listen.

- Is God Sufficient for Abraham to follow down an unknown and potentially dangerous path ? [Gen 12:1-9](#) [-]
 - When God calls we must leave behind all that would slow us down. [Oops, he kept Lot; he wasted years in Haran 'parched'] Remember [Hebrews 12:1-2](#) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (NKJV)
 - When God leads He can overcome all the disruptions and weariness following His plan may bring.
 - [Hebrews 11:8-19](#)
 - Abraham obeyed the call. v. 8
 - Abraham dwelled in the land v. 9
 - Abraham waited for the city v. 10
 - Abraham embraced the promises of God v. 13

1. Gene Getz, Abraham (Chicago:Victor,), p. 11.

2. Farrar, *Better Homes and Jungles*, p.189-90.

3. Ruth Calkin, Tell me again Lord (Wheaton:Tyndale, 1974), p. 124-25.

4. Gene Getz, Abraham (Chicago:Victor,), p. 11.

5. Gene Getz, Abraham (Chicago:Victor,), p. 11.

6. Farrar, *Better Homes and Jungles*, p.189-90.

7. Ruth Calkin, *Tell me again Lord* (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1974), p. 124-25.

8. From the Dobson Fathers tract.

9. Letters to Phillip.

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