

RECEIVE

(ἀναδεξάμενος= 'anathexamenos')

*To receive, to accept, to take up, take upon one's self, undertake, assume,
to entertain anyone hospitably.*

Hebrews 11:17, “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received (accepted) the promises, offered up his only begotten son.” Notice, Abraham had already accepted and received God’s promises! “... **He who had received (past tense) the promises of God offered up his son.**” You can never operate in **faith** until you have first **accepted** and then **received** God’s promises. Bearing in mind that this does not have anything to do with simply ‘*accepting that the promises are true*’, as this is “belief.” **Faith** has to do with intentionally *accepting* God at His word and *receiving* all His promises. It’s the process of inviting them to populate your life and making each one come alive in you. The Greek verb’s meaning is very clear. It is, “*to receive by deliberate and ready reception of what is being offered.*” In fact, it’s exactly the same way the Lord *receives* the spirit of a departing believer (**Acts 7:59**).

The Greek word is most often used in connection with people receiving a guest or visitor to their home. When you’ve invited friends round for dinner and they arrive at your door, you *accept* and *receive* them “by deliberate and ready reception.” It’s the same with God’s promises, you ought to **accept** and **receive** them *deliberately* and *readily*! Another way of putting it is, *freely* and *intentionally*. The same word is also used in **Acts 28:7** when Paul was shipwrecked and ended up in Malta, “***In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.***”

Now, I’d like to add something quite interesting. In classical Greek there are two primary verbs that appear in the Bible and are translated “receive.” Together they are responsible for 13 other words - making 15 in total. However, the one that we are concentrating on *δεξάμαι*, in this instance has something tagged on the front of it (‘*ανα*’) “up” is regarded as intensive and implies **gladly**. Therefore, *αναδεξάμενος* states that Abraham had *gladly* received the promises of God, just as Publius had *gladly* received Paul.

The important question is this, “*Have you gladly and readily accepted and received the promises of God with joy?*” Or better, “*Have you deliberately and intentionally ‘freely’ accepted and received God’s promises with joy and delight?*” **Romans 4:20,21** also concerns Abraham, and it says, “***He did not hesitate at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what God had promised He was also able to perform.***” Abraham did not **hesitate** concerning God’s intentions, and he had a total assurance that what the Almighty had promised He has the **power** to perform. Abraham totally and convincingly **believed** (had faith), and consequently, he did not hesitate at the *promise*. Yet, according to our foundational scripture, he had **already** *accepted* and *received* “the promise” (with joy and delight). This is why he did not hesitate! This is why he was not in two minds!

This is only slightly different to **Mark 11:24**, but the principle is the same, ***“Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them.”*** In prayer, you must believe you have already received what you’ve asked God for. And regarding God’s promises, you **believe**, first, then intentionally accept and receive the promise (with joy and gladness). In other words, *believe* that what God has promised is the absolute truth, and then **receive** a promise that relates to your specific situation as though it was invited into your life and has already arrived.

You must believe that the promise of God is close by - near to you! Abraham knew that the promise (the Word) was near! ***“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith which we preach” (Romans 10:8)***. For 100 years, *“He did not waiver (hesitate) at the promise of God.”* He had *gladly-received* the promise that God had made, and by faith, he was able to endure. Abraham lived every day as if the promise had arrived at his front door, and all he had to do is open the door and **receive** it – receive it with gladness and joy!