

Walking by Faith

Genesis 12:1-9

Introduction: Abram's story follows Noah's as he too trusted God and built an ark that saved him and his family. Noah's story is about one act of faith; Abram's story is a journey that starts with one act that leads him to the position as the Father of all who walk by faith.

God's Call - Genesis 12:1

First, Abram understood what God said to him, it was intelligible; second, Abram sensed that it was real, he was not dreaming; and third, he sensed the urgency of the words, "So, Abram went, as the Lord had told him".

Precept: In Genesis 12:1 we should understand that Abram was a pagan idol worshipper when God called him.

Concept: Abram had no reason to trust God but he did; I, on the other hand have many reasons to hear God and trust God. (John 10:14-16; 25-27)

Abram's Call: Genesis 12:1-4 - The call of Abram has three parts. The call of Abram consisted of (1) a call to move, (2) a promise associated with the call, and (3) 'instant' obedience from Abram. (Romans 10:14-17)

God's Promise - Genesis 12:2-3, 7a

It is interesting that none of this came true in Abram's life time (Hebrews 11:8-16; Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3).

Precept: God is a promise-maker and a promise-keeper.

Abram's Obedience - Genesis 12:4-9

Obeying God has some immediate blessings and at times long term benefits; either way obeying God is good and is the evidence that faith has birthed and is growing.

Principles of Faith

First, God initiates contact and our obedience is the evidence of faith; our disobedience is the evidence of unbelief (Hebrew 3:7-19). Sinai and the incarnation are prime examples.

Second, God's only message to unbelievers is follow me. God's message to believers comes from His Word without, His Holy Spirit within, and His sovereign purposes around.

Third, we hear God's voice best when we obey what we know to be the revealed will of God. We struggle to know God's will when we selectively listen and obey.

Fourth, living by faith can be counter-cultural and contrary to economic security.

Fifth, Obeying God is the first principle of faith and also the first step of faith. When Abram moved he took the first step in a lifelong journey of trusting God.