

CHOOSING FAITH OVER FEAR

Different: Part 3

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The Second Test: Genesis 11:27-12:20 Can the God who Called me Keep me?

1. Famine causes FEAR.

“Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.” (Genesis 12:10, NIV)

“Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”” (Mark 4:38, NLT)

2. Fearful doubt causes FOOLISH DECISIONS.

“As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, “Look, you are a very beautiful woman. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife. Let’s kill him; then we can have her!’ So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you.”” (Genesis 12:11–13, NLT)

“Foolish decisions trap you in a dead end.” (Proverbs 5:23b, MSG)

3. Foolish decisions always affect THE FAMILY.

“And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai’s beauty. When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. But the LORD sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. “What have you done to me?” he demanded. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!” Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.” (Genesis 12:14–20, NLT)

*“The LORD hates every liar,
but he is the friend of all who can be TRUSTED.”
(Proverbs 12:22, CEV)*

HOW TO TRUST GOD IN A CRISIS

“When I am afraid, I will TRUST in you...”

(Psalm 56:3, NIV84)

TAKE your problems to God in prayer.

"I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34:4, NIV)

Make prayer your first response instead of your **LAST RESORT!**

"Early in the morning before the sun is up, I am praying and pointing out how much I trust in you." (Psalm 119:147, The Living Bible)

RELY on God's protection & provision.

*"The LORD and King is the Holy One of Israel. He says, "You will find peace and rest when you turn away from your sins and **depend on me**. You will receive the strength you need when you **stay calm and trust in me**..." (Isaiah 30:15, NIV)*

"You do not get what you want, because you do not pray for it." (James 4:2c, NEB)

Abram didn't realize that wherever God guides, **GOD PROVIDES.**

UNDERSTAND God's purpose for problems.

*"**Trust in the LORD with all your heart** and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5–6, NIV)*

*"And we know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28, NIV)*

SUBMIT to God's punishment.

"For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." (Hebrews 12:6, NLT)

Abram's fear caused him to lose...

- **INTEGRITY** with others.
- **FIDELITY** with his wife.
- **INTIMACY** with God.

TURN back to God's plan.

"So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. (Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) From the Negev, they

continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the LORD again.” (Genesis 13:1–4, NLT)

Abram...

- **REALIZED** that God’s blessings were based on God’s character not his.

“Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and prayed, “Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?” (1 Chronicles 17:16, NLT)

- **RETURNED** to the place where He had last heard from God.

“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first...” (Revelation 2:4–5, NIV)

- **RESTORED** his relationship with God.

“¹ **Have mercy** on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² **Wash me** clean from my guilt. **Purify me** from my sin. ³ For **I recognize my rebellion**; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and **your judgment against me is just**... ⁶ But **you desire honesty**... ⁷ **Purify me from my sins**, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow...¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. **Renew a loyal spirit within me**...¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation**...” (Psalm 51:1–12, NLT)

ACTION STEP

Recommit your life to God.