

# FOLLOWING BY FAITH

Different: Part 2

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Pastor Brian

Genesis 11:27-12:9

## THE FIRST TEST:

### Will you obey when you don't know the way?

*"It was **BY FAITH THAT ABRAHAM OBEYED** when God called him to leave home and go to another land...**He went without knowing where he was going.**" (Hebrews 11:8, NLT)*

#### Qualities God Can Use to Build a Bold Faith

1. A **PAINFUL** past.

*"This is the account of Terah's family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. **But Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans**, the land of his birth, while his father, Terah, was still living. Meanwhile, Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. (Milcah and her sister Iscah were daughters of Nahor's brother Haran.)" (Genesis 11:27–29, NLT)*

*"One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. **He was headed for the land of Canaan**, but they **stopped at Haran** and settled there. Terah lived for 205 years and **died while still in Haran.**" (Genesis 11:31–32, NLT)*

Hurt can make us **HESITANT**.

2. A persistent **PROBLEM**.

*"But Sarai was unable to become pregnant and had no children." (Genesis 11:30, NLT)*

Problems can make us **PESSIMISTIC**.

*"People who do what is right may have many problems, but the LORD will solve them all." (Psalm 34:19, NCV)*

*"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth **you will have many trials and sorrows**. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NLT)*

3. A passionate **PURSUIT**.

***The LORD had said to Abram**, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go **to the land that I will show you**.” (Genesis 12:1, NLT)*

*“...Our glorious **God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia** before he settled in Haran. God told him, ‘Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.’” (Acts 7:2–3, NLT)*

Madness around us drives us to find **MEANING** outside us.

4. A pleasing compliance to a **PUZZLING COMMAND**.

***So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed**, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.” (Genesis 12:4–6, NLT)*

*Faith is a willful **decision** of **trust**, resulting in an **uncomfortable** act of **obedience**, enabling God to accomplish His **will** through me by delivering His **grace** to me.*

***Then the LORD appeared to Abram** and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him. After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the LORD, and he worshiped the LORD. Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.” (Genesis 12:7–9, NLT)*

Your experience with God will never go deeper than your **OBEDIENCE** to God.

*The steps of obedience*

- 1) **PERCEIVE**: **PASSIONATELY** pursue God’s will.

*“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)*

- 2) **LEAVE**: You cannot go forward in faith without **LEAVING SOMETHING BEHIND**.

*“But Jesus told him, “Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead.”” (Matthew 8:22, NLT)*

- 3) **BELIEVE**: His calling is not to a *place* or even a *purpose* but to a **PERSON**.

*“Oh, that my people would listen to me! Oh, that Israel would FOLLOW ME, walking in my paths!” (Psalm 81:13, NLT)*

- 4) **RECEIVE:** God tells Abram, “I will give you a PEOPLE, a PURPOSE and a PROMISE.”

*“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:2–3, NIV)*

### **ACTION STEP**

*Surrender to God’s calling.*