

## Genesis 12:8–13:4 Blessed By Unmerited Grace

God uses trials and even failures to expose and mature His people's faith, but His grace does not leave them in bondage — He brings them back to the place of blessing.

Topic: Grace, Backsliding, Trials

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### OUTLINE:

- 1. Drifting from the Place of Promise — Genesis 12:8–9
- 2. Failing in the Trial of Famine — Genesis 12:10
- 3. Falling into Bondage in Egypt — Genesis 12:11–16
- 4. Receiving Grace in the Place of Failure — Genesis 12:17–20
- 5. Returning by Grace to the Place of Blessing — Genesis 13:1–4

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### 1. DRIFTING FROM THE PLACE OF PROMISE (12:8-9)

\*\*Ur Map

\*\*Bethel and Ai Map: in the center of the Promised Land

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Genesis 12:9 — So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Why would you ever wander away from being in the center of God's will for you?

Hebrews 2:1 — Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Jude 1:21 — keep yourselves in the love of God...

Proverbs 4:23 — Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

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\*Ravenhill- "A deacon's run away with a woman, he's backslidden. No, that's the fruit of his backsliding. He backslid months ago in his prayer life, in his devotional life. Every backslider starts there. So if you're chilling off in your experience of prayer, if Jesus isn't as real and as wonderful, if the Word isn't sweeter than the honey in the honeycomb, get on your belly..."

Drifting begins where the place of blessing stops feeling precious.

Are you in the center of God's will for your life?

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## 2. FAILING IN THE TRIAL OF FAMINE (12:10)

A trial is not merely a difficult situation.

-A trial is a situation that makes faith and obedience difficult.

Galatians 5:22–23 — But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Betrayal makes love difficult.

-Disappointments makes joy difficult.

-Uncertain circumstances make peace difficult.

-Irritations make patience difficult.

-Rude people make kindness difficult.

-Unthankfulness makes goodness difficult.

-Exhaustion makes faithfulness difficult.

-Conflict makes gentleness difficult.

-Pressures and temptations make self-control difficult.

Trials reveal the depths of our faith.

Abraham was already headed south,  
the famine just hurried him along.

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Mark 9:24 — Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

-Luke 17:5 — And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

Trials perfect our faith.

James 2:22 — Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

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Have trials made your obedience feel optional?

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### 3. FALLING INTO BONDAGE IN EGYPT(11-16)

Compromise leads to more compromise, which eventually leads to bondage.

The best lies are the ones that lie closest to the truth.

-They are so close to the truth, we can even convince ourselves that they are true.

Genesis 20:12 — “But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

A half-truth = a full-blown lie.

Have you convinced yourself of something that deep down you know isn't true?

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Compromise goes by many names:

-It calls itself wisdom.

-It calls itself practical.

-It calls itself reasonable.

-It calls itself acceptable.

-It calls itself necessary.

-It calls itself affordable.

Sin promises protection, satisfaction, relief, and solutions, but it produces captivity.

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Have I convinced myself that the compromise in my life is acceptable?

What are we to do when we are in bondage to our failures?

### 4. RECEIVING GRACE IN THE PLACE OF FAILURE (12-17-20)

“But the LORD”

Grace finds Abram long before Abram finds home.

The first major action in the rescue is not Abram repenting, confessing, or fixing what he broke.... But God...

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Grace does two things at once here:

-Grace comforts Abram by rescuing him

-Grace frees Abram by exposing his lie.

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1 Peter 4:8b — for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

Proverbs 17:9 — He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

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John 8:32 — And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

James 5:16 — Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

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Do I only want grace that comforts me, or will I receive grace that corrects me?

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## 5. RETURNING BY GRACE TO THE PLACE OF BLESSING (13:1-4)

Genesis 13:1–2

Genesis 16:1 — Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Our failures are not without consequence.

Romans 8:28 — And we know that all things work together for good...

It’s not that our failures don’t matter, but that our failures aren’t final.

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“to the place where his tent had been at the beginning”

Abraham is home, but he is not unchanged.

The man who couldn't trust God in the famine would later trust God to resurrection his son.

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\*Newton- "Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."

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I'm glad God records Abraham's failures for us.