

Bible Study Guide

Restoring Your Altar

Text: Genesis 13:1-4; Proverbs 24:16

Bible Study Focus: Abraham, the father of faith, experienced moments of fear, compromise, and failure. And yet, failure was not the end of his journey of faith.

Key verse: *"For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity."*—Proverbs 24:16 (NIV)

Note: We do not typically associate a righteous person with falling. In fact, some might even define righteousness as *never falling*. Yet this verse reminds us that "the righteous falls seven times and rises again."

- The distinguishing mark of the righteous is not the absence of failure, but the refusal to remain fallen.
- Righteousness is not merely about fall prevention—it is also about the grace, resilience, and perseverance to **get back up**.
 - God measures righteousness not by a life without stumbles, but by a heart that continually returns to Him.

Read Genesis 13:1-4

There are three things that we can note that Abram did:

- **Abram Left Egypt – And Brought His Family With Him**
 - “So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.” (Genesis 13:1)
 - Abram had to face the damage that his actions and decision had on his wife and family. To do so, he had to leave Egypt and begin the journey back to the place and direction that God had for him.
 - When a believer strays off course...course correction is the product of repentance.
 - **Repentance** – *metanoeo* – to change the way you think; to change your opinion about something; (to change direction)
 - Acts 3:19 – Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.
 - Luke 5:32 – I came not to call the righteous, but sinner to repentance. (Jesus’s response to the Pharisees after being at Matthew’s (tax collector) house party.
 - Repentance is a change in mentality and direction.

Questions: Why is it impossible to stay in “Egypt” and grow closer to God at the same time? Do you think it is fair that Abram kept all his wealth?



- **Abram Journeyed Back To God**

- “And he went on his journeys from the **Negev** as far as **Bethel**, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai.” (Genesis 13:3)
 - *Negev* – **parched**, barren, or **dry**.
 - *Bethel* – House of **God**
- Sometimes, believers expect restoration to feel exciting immediately, but most times it may feel a bit difficult. It may feel dry and even empty.
 - How would you describe a spiritual Negev?

Questions: What can God teach us when we are in a Negev “dry season”? Why do you think God sometimes allow restoration to take time instead of restoring everything immediately?

- **Abram Called on the Lord...again**

- “...to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, **between Bethel and Ai**, to the place of the altar which he had made there previously; and there Abram **called on the name of the Lord.**” (Genesis 13:3,4)
- Abram goes back to the place where he first went off course...that place of **faithful tension**...between **Bethel** and **Ai**.
 - **Bethel** – House of God
 - **Ai** – Heap of **Ruins**
- **Question: Faithful tension** – What does **faithful tension** look like to you? (to have an altar in between the House of God and a Heap of Ruins)
- Abram calls on the Lord once again. His altar is:
 - His place of **sacrifice**
 - His place of **communication**
 - His place of **contact**