

ABRAHAM

Faith to Fear to Faith

Craig Smith • June 17, 2018

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. (Gen. 12:8-9)

When the faith of the faithful is tested...

- **Everyone faces a “famine”** – *“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.” (Gen. 12:10)*
- **☛ Temptation: flee it in fear instead of face it in faith** – *“...and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.” (v. 10b)*
- **Every escape has a lie (I don’t need God)** – *“As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, ‘I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, “This is his wife.” Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.” (Gen. 12:11-13)*

We all stumble in many ways. (James 3:2a)

- **Every lie hurts another** – *“And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels.” (Gen. 12:15-16)*

☛ **Temptation: it’s a lot easier to squash an acorn than to bring down an oak tree** – *“...do not give the devil a foothold.” (Eph. 4:27)*

- **God’s grace doesn’t depend on man’s goodness** – *“But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. ‘What have you done to me?’ he said. ‘Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife?’...‘Take her and go!’ Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.” (Gen. 12:17-18, 19b-20)*

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Rom. 6:1-2)

Even when we run in fear, God always leads us back home in faith...

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him...From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. (Gen. 13:1, 3-4)