

Abraham



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As for Me and My House Series

Hebrews 11:8-12 (NKJV)

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Introduction

Perhaps one of the most important Bible figures to be mentioned when we speak about faith is

Abraham. Abraham is the first person in the Bible credited with righteousness because of his faith to follow God into the wilderness. However, Abraham's faith-fulness wasn't observed in his ability to stay in one place on one task; his 'full of faith-ness' led him through significant SHIFTS in his life.

Some of these SHIFTS were explainable and others weren't. Like Noah, God had given Abraham the ability to show up somewhere or be doing something before the multitudes figure out why or what he was called to do. He figured out really early that sometimes God calls you to a party that hasn't started setting up yet!

Shift in His Worship

- **Abraham came from a land and culture that was polytheistic**
- Joshua 24:2 (NKJV) 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.
- Joshua 24:14-15 (NKJV) 14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
 - 1. **Multiplicity of gods** — each city, household, or vocation had its false deities.
 - 2. **Ancestral traditions** — loyalty to Terah's gods and practices was expected.
 - 3. **Fatalism and astrology** — destinies were thought to be written in the stars, with a moon god ruling time and fertility.
 - 4. **Household religion** — every family carried "household idols" (*teraphim*) that symbolized blessing and protection. Laban later shows us this (Genesis 31:30–35).
- Hearing the voice of Yaweh changed everything!
 - Instead of many gods, **one God**
 - Instead of seeking blessing through idols, **blessing would come by faith in Yahweh's promise.**
 - Instead of being bound to his father's household gods, Abram was called to **leave his father's house** (Genesis 12:1).

Shift in His Location

- God called him to leave his country and his family and father's house in Haran and journey across the wilderness to the place God would show him—Canaan.
- He followed when there were no guarantees outside of God's voice
- He moved without delay (verse 4, Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him and Lot went with him)
- Upon his arrival in Canaan, he didn't stop there, he continued to explore the region God had promised to him from the terebinth tree to Bethel where God met with him. And he journeyed

further south also.

Shift in His Identity

- He went from a sojourner (a temporary dweller) to journeyer (a purposeful traveler with God).
- He had a change in his name
 - Abram - 'high father' to Abraham - 'father of a multitude'
 - ◆ how is it that he had the name 'high father' but had no children yet?
 - ◆ he lived in the tension of the meaning of his name and the reality he was living (without an offspring)
- He was called to live and understand tension, promise and completion.
- he went from believing that he needed to please many gods and many people to believing that he only needed to please One God
- He went from being estranged from God to being God's friend - James 2:23 (NKJV) 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

Shift in His Belief

- He went from believing in what would have been handed to him from his family to believing in the inheritance from God
- He believed that the impossible was possible
- Day one, God promised Abraham descendants even when Abraham had no children.
- So when Isaac finally came miraculously, and God asked Abraham to sacrifice him, Abraham didn't resist God but still believed that God would have to raise up Isaac from the dead in order for God's promise to be fulfilled.
- Hebrews 11:17-19 (NKJV) 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
- He went from believing in what made sense to him naturally, to believing that God had a plan even when what He said didn't make sense.

Conclusion

- What is God trying to SHIFT in your life?
- What contradictions are you living with?
 - who/what you believe you're meant to be versus what life has allowed you to be
- Are you led by the voice of ambitions of what you want or are you led by the Voice of what God wants?
- Are you comfortable just being a sojourner (temporarily here and there) or are you purposefully traveling to where God wants you?
- Are you willing to go where God sends you even though it doesn't look like anything else is going on there?
- Can you believe God to fulfill His promises even if it looks like He's asking you to give it up?