



Path to Purpose: Stepping Out in Faith

Text: Genesis 12:1–9

Founding Pastor Ken Werlein

1. Have you ever felt like you were living the movie “Groundhog Day”, when you felt “stuck” in life? Do you feel like that now? How so?
2. Read Genesis 12:1–9.
 - a. The first thing we learn is that God had made himself known to Abram, though we do not know exactly how. What are various ways that God makes himself known today?
 - b. How about you, personally? How did God first make himself known to you? When and how did you first come to acknowledge Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
 - c. When Abram first met God, there was nothing extra spiritual, or good, or holy, or virtuous about him. He was just an ordinary guy who didn’t even know God. Why do you think God chose such a man to be one of the patriarchs of our faith? What do you think God wants to teach us about the type of people God uses for his purposes?
 - d. The second thing we learn is that Abram believed God. What was it that Abram believed as revealed in this passage?
 - e. How does your answer to the previous question shape your understanding of what belief or faith is?
3. Read Hebrews 11:1–12:2.
 - a. How does the author of the letter to the Hebrews define faith?
 - b. What common qualities or threads do you see in the faith of the men and women in this chapter? And how does this continue to refine your understanding of belief/faith?
 - c. What does the author want these examples of faith to produce in us?
 - d. How is Jesus the ultimate example of faith, and how do we find our strength to step out in faith through him?
4. Now begin to think through how God is wanting you, right now, in this season of life, to step out in faith.
 - a. What are you doing to regularly place yourself in a position to hear God’s voice?
 - b. What is a practice or rhythm you need to commit or re-commit yourself to in order to hear God’s voice, and how can you begin to incorporate that practice more regularly in your life? (e.g. personal Bible study time, being more consistent with Sunday worship and/or Grow Group attendance, time in prayer)
 - c. Where is God calling you to “move”? What is it that he has laid on your heart?
 - d. If until today you have been telling God, “no”, what challenges are you facing, and how can you overcome those challenges?

Challenge: Continue the journey on the Path to Purpose by using the Path to Purpose devotional resource to study the life of Abraham throughout the week during this series. Join your other Grow Group members and all of Faithbridge on this journey. And share with each other what God is teaching you and how he is transforming you!

<http://faithbridge.org/path-to-purpose-devotional//>

Prayer:
Father,

You desire to know us and bless us, even though we have done nothing to deserve it. In fact, we have all done life our own way and rebelled against you in some form or fashion, but you graciously paid the price for us on the cross of Christ so that we could be restored into a right relationship with you. More than that, you want to use ordinary people like us for your eternal purposes!

All you ask of us is to step out in faith and trust and follow wherever you lead. While we are made right with you the moment we repent of our old rebellious ways and acknowledge Christ as our Lord and Savior, every moment of our lives is meant to be walked by faith.

Lord, cultivate in us a heart that is receptive to your Word, through studying the Scriptures, spending time with your people in worship and community, and conversing with you in prayer. Give us clarity, direction, and wisdom in the path that you are calling each of us to take. And give us the faith to step out of our comfort zones and follow wherever you lead. And surround us with people who will encourage us and help us stay faithful on the Path to Purpose.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY DEEPER

Who Are the Children of Abraham?

“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

You who hope in Christ and follow him in the obedience of faith are Abraham's descendants and heirs of his covenant promises.

God said to Abraham in Genesis 17:4, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.” But Genesis makes plain that Abraham did not father a multitude of nations in a physical or political sense. Therefore, the meaning of God's promise was probably that a multitude of nations would somehow enjoy the blessings of sonship even though physically unrelated to Abraham.

That's no doubt what God meant in Genesis 12:3 when he said to Abraham, “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” From the very beginning, God had in view that Jesus Christ would be the descendant of Abraham and that everyone who trusts in Christ would become an heir of Abraham's

promise. Paul says in Galatians 3:29, “If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

So, when God said to Abraham 4,000 years ago, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations,” he opened the way for any one of us, no matter what nation we belong to, to become a child of Abraham and an heir of God’s promises. All we have to do is share the faith of Abraham – that is, bank our hope on God’s promises, so much so that if obedience requires it, we could give up our dearest possession like Abraham gave up Isaac.

We don’t become heirs of Abraham’s promises by working for God, but by being confident that God works for us. “[Abraham] grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised” (Romans 4:20–21). That’s why Abraham could obey God even when obedience looked like a dead-end street. He trusted God to do the impossible – like raise his son from the dead.

Faith in God’s promises – or today we would say, faith in Christ, who is the confirmation of God’s promises – is the way to become a child of Abraham; obedience is the evidence that faith is genuine (Genesis 22:12–19). Therefore, Jesus says in John 8:39, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did.”

Children of Abraham are people from all nations who put their hope in Christ and, like Abraham on Mount Moriah, therefore don’t let the loss of their most precious earthly possession stop their obedience.

You who hope in Jesus Christ and follow him in the obedience of faith are the descendants of Abraham and heirs of his covenant promises.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/who-are-the-children-of-abraham>