

# **“Go Up to Bethel ” – Restoring Spiritual Passion Series Part #1**

## **2 Timothy 1:6**

If you don't keep giving attention to your spiritual life, what was once hot and burning will grow dim and cold.

Greatness is not something inherited or passed down from your ancestors... greatness is about how you live your life.

## **Genesis 35:1-7**

Bethel = “\_\_\_\_\_ of God”

Many of the Old Testament patriarchs were blessed with unforgettable spiritual experiences in this place:

- Genesis 12 – Abram hears God's voice calling to him
- Genesis 28 – Jacob sees the ladder extended into heaven, angels going up and down
- Genesis 32 – Jacob wrestles with God

God asks Jacob, “What are you doing here?” (in Shechem)

- “You have slipped away from me.”

New Year's... Practical goals are great, but our Spiritual Lives need primary attention as well!

- God is calling us to “Go up to Bethel!”
- Bethel is symbolic of the place of intimacy with God and the priority of our commitments to Him.

## ***HOW CAN WE “GO BACK TO BETHEL”?***

### **1. BUILD AN \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **Genesis 35:1,7**

The altar was never to be made of new cut stone, it was always to be made of rough field stone

- Stones were taken from the field
- God never wanted the “hand of flesh” at the altar of God

If you want to sense the presence of God again in your life, build an altar in your heart

- Set the affections of your heart to seek after God DAILY

### **2. GET RID OF YOUR \_\_\_\_\_... PURIFY YOURSELF**

#### **Genesis 35:2**

Bethel is not only the place of an altar, it's also a place of sanctification

- What would happen if we all went through our houses and destroyed all the foreign gods?

**Exodus 34:14...** “God who is jealous about His relationship with you”

- A PAGAN IDOL can become a part of our lives almost without our recognizing it

### Hebrews 12:1

- Ask yourself: “What is it in my life that I need to get rid of?”
- Ask God: “What is it that is holding me back?”

## 3. GET TO THE PLACE OF \_\_\_\_\_

### Genesis 35:3

Bethel is the place of answered prayer.

Jacob is remembering the time when he was at the end of his rope...

- It was at this moment that NOTHING else mattered!

This is the kind of prayer that is:

- **PERSISTENT** prayer
- **FERVENT** prayer
- Prayer of **FAITH**
- Prayed with **CONFIDENCE**
- Prayer that **DEFEATS DEVILS**
- Prayer that **MOVES MOUNTAINS**
- Prayer that **HOLDS UP RAIN**, and **MAKES IT RAIN**

## 4. WHOLLY \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELF WITH GOD

### Genesis 35:4

- It wasn't about jewelry, it was about “identification”

### 2 Corinthians 1:12

Do the people around you know you are a Christian?

## WRAP-UP

If we WILLINGLY begin this journey... THE POWER OF GOD GOES BEFORE YOU!

### Genesis 35:5

Holiness ALWAYS produces POWER

There are enemies on the road to Bethel, but if you set your heart on this journey, you will find God is for you and ahead of you

### Romans 8:31