

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

All In - Ps Louis Els

There are countless stories in the Bible of men who encountered God in a way that caused them to be ALL IN. These men's lives were completely changed and deeply impacted everyone around them. Moses and the burning bush. Joseph and his dreams. Elijah and the still small voice. Another such man is Abram, who we read in Genesis 12, being called by God:

"Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

When we have encounters with God, it is to **prepare us for His call and purpose**. He deals with things in our lives so that we can fully trust and rely on Him as we pursue our kingdom purpose. It is not about becoming famous or wealthy. Rather when we encounter God in this way, there is a CALL, a PROMISE, and a RESPONSE.

THE CALL

Abram was called out of his father's house. He has to leave behind his family, people, culture, and all the gods they worshipped. **He left the familiar to follow God** to an unknown land. Part of God's call was for Abram to set aside all other gods, and the same is true when He calls us. God calls us out of these two things: our comfort zone, and things we have made into idols.

THE PROMISE

When Abram arrives in the promised land, there is a famine and he leaves for Egypt to survive. His descendants would later conquer and settle in the promised land. The promise God gave Abram was not just for him - to live a comfortable life until he died. Rather it was for his children and their children. The promises God gives when he calls us are for generations, not just us. God isn't trying to give you a comfortable life but one that **makes a significant impact on those following in our footsteps**.

THE RESPONSE

Genesis 15 continues the story and we get a bleak picture of how it's going. Abram is childless and the 'great nation' is nowhere to be seen. Again God speaks to Abram to encourage him that the promise will come to pass. Verse 6 tells us Abram's response: *'Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.'*

Abram's faith set him apart. In difficult situations, when the promises of God seem unlikely to happen, it's **our trust and belief in His faithfulness that will keep us true** to the call we have received.

Reflection

1. What do you feel God is calling you to do in this season of your life? Think about your spheres of influence: work, family, friends, community. What are you called to do in those spaces?
2. Are there any promises you have received from God that haven't come to pass yet? Take a moment to pray and thank God that He is faithful to fulfill His word, and declare your trust in Him.