

Breakout-Into the Unknown

(Part 2 - Abraham)

(Genesis 12:1-4 & 22:1-18)

When God called Abraham to leave his family and his homeland for a new land, Abraham had to believe that God both *could* and *would* accomplish the impossible. Abraham's willingness to follow God's call and venture into the unknown epitomizes the complete trust that God requires of us all.

1. Following God Means Venturing into the Unknown: When God called Abraham to leave Ur, Abraham had no idea where God would lead him; when God told Abraham he would be the father of a great nation, Abraham could not see any physically possible way to have children; and when God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham had no idea how he would have future descendants. But he trusted at each point that God was both able and faithful to fulfill His promises. If you can fully see and understand the path before you, faith is not required. God does not show us in advance each step He is calling us to and where it will take us; rather, He wants us just to take his hand and follow Him step-by-step into the future, knowing that He will be there beside us.

2. God's Calling to Salvation and Commissioning into Mission Are the Same. Consider Moses at the burning bush, Peter in his boat fishing all night without success, and Paul on the road to Damascus. When God called each of them, the call was both to be His AND to do His work to further His kingdom. God doesn't save us and then separately commission only a few to go into the world and make disciples. Rather, when we are saved, we are ALL commissioned to make disciples and further His kingdom. We are called to Jesus so we can go out into the world.

3. You are Blessed to Be a Blessing to Others. Abraham was called and blessed by God so that he could be the father of God's people through whom Jesus would ultimately bring salvation to the world. We, likewise, are supposed to be channels through which God's blessings flow to others, not reservoirs which retain and hold those blessings for ourselves. The only reason God gives us wisdom, wealth, skill and insight are so that we can use them to be a blessing to others and to further his kingdom.

4. Take Your Hands Off: We are called to make God our trust and His kingdom our delight. This requires a change in the world's perspective from building our own kingdom to building His. This means we don't just add a little bit of God to our lives, but rather let go of our worldly treasure/security to pursue him above all else.

5. To Become a Blessing, We Have to Believe the Impossible: Your actions will reveal what you truly believe about God, His faithfulness, and His power to bring to pass what He has promised.

Questions to Consider:

1. Is God your primary treasure and trust? Does He have FULL authority in every area of your life? If not, you are not yet a true disciple of Christ.

2. Are you pursuing an earthly kingdom or your own? Does the way you use your treasure, your time and your talents support the way you just answered that question?

3. Is what you're living for worth Jesus dying for? Is what you are doing with your life worthy of the magnitude of His sacrifice? Does the scale of your dreams about the Kingdom of God match the scale of His suffering?