

ABRAHAM AND THE CALL OF GOD

Genesis 11:27-12:9



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



SERMON OUTLINE

As recorded in the Bible, Abraham's life serves as an inspiration and source of instruction for followers of God. In the book of Hebrews, the writer encourages readers to remember and imitate the faith of their spiritual leaders. Paul recognizes Abraham as a key example of a life of faith, and it is through faith in Jesus Christ people of all races and ethnicities can become children of Abraham. The story of Abraham begins in Genesis 12, where God calls him. By examining Genesis 12:1-3, we can learn three key things about the call of God.

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Abraham's Story begins in Genesis 12 with God's calling. We can learn three things about the call of God by considering Genesis 12:1-3

1. God's Call Comes by God's Word: *not a voice in your head*

- "Now the LORD said to Abraham..." (Gen 12:1)
- How does Abraham's call relate to the creation of the world? Read Gen 1:3
- How does God's call, through His Word, come to Christians today? Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

2. God's Call Captures the Heart: *not just the intellect*

- Abraham's faith is more than mental assent to an idea; his ensuing life suggests that something has captured his heart.
- Reread 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5. What other elements are at work when God calls us?
- Have you ever felt called to something? What was that like? Have you experienced God's call on your life through Jesus Christ? What was that like?

3. God's Call Is The Father's Blessing: *not a general calling mercenaries*

- Read Gen 12:2-3. The word "blessing" or "bless" appears five times.
- What does it mean for God's call to coincide with his promised blessing?
- Read Galatians 3:27-4:6. How does becoming children of Abraham relate to God becoming our father?
- What might it mean to be called to be God's son or daughter?



Further Study

- "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Heb 13:7).
- "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Galatians 3:29)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the key elements of the call of God as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5, and how can one determine if it is genuinely from God rather than a voice in one's head? Is it through a growing conviction brought on by the Holy Spirit, and does this call align with objective reality and the teachings of Jesus?"
- Can you share any personal experiences of being called to a specific person, cause, or situation, and what that experience was like? How does God's call differ from other experiences of being called to a person, cause, or situation?
- Have you ever sensed God's call on your life as a blessing from the father or a demand on your life?
- As a parent, mentor, or guardian, how can you help your children hear and respond to God's call, as outlined in scripture?
 - i. **Isaiah 43:1** - "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
 - ii. **Jeremiah 1:4-5** - "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
 - iii. **Matthew 4:19** - "And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
 - iv. **Luke 5:10** - "And so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on, you will be catching men."
 - v. **John 15:16** - "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."
 - vi. **2 Timothy 1:9** - "who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began"



Further Study

- Hebrews 11:8-12 (11:1-12)
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5
- Matthew 28:16-20
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/genesis/>