

# ABRAHAM AND THE STEPS OF FAITH

Genesis 12:1-10



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look mercifully upon your people, that by your great goodness, they may be governed and preserved evermore through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



## SERMON OUTLINE

The story of Abraham highlights the importance of faith in our spiritual journey. Abraham, like many of us, didn't always understand God's ways or timing, but he lived his life based on his faith in God. Faith is the essential aspect of the spiritual life, the beating heart behind prayer, obedience, generosity, hope, love, and kindness. To grow in faith, we must follow in the footsteps of Abraham, embracing the process of breaking down, building up, and building an altar to God. Understanding the role of faith in our lives and what it means to live by it is crucial to our spiritual growth, as we learn to walk in the faith that Abraham had.

“.....

Abraham is our model and “in the footsteps of the faith of Abraham” we are called to walk (Rom 4:12). From his life, we can notice at least these three things about biblical faith...

### Faith involves a breaking down of our former “faith system”



- What does God ask Abraham to leave behind in order to follow Him?
- What “faith systems” do people hold today, even if they say they are not religious?
- What has God asked you to leave in order to follow Him?

### Faith involves a building up of our ability to trust God

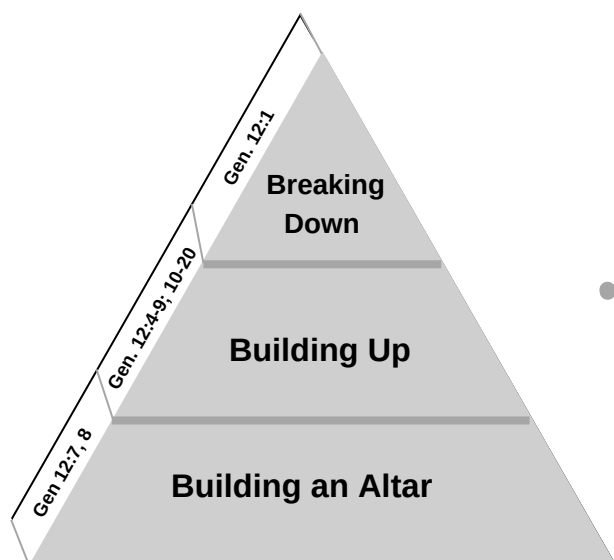


- Abraham responds through movement, “So Abram went...” (12:4).
- Faith involves things we trust with our intellect, but faith is also something we learn by doing, going, obeying God.
- How is Abraham’s faith tested and developed in “real time”?
- How has your faith developed by doing rather than just thinking? Faith has an altar from which it cries out to God (Gen 12:7, 8)

### Faith has an altar from which it cries out to God



- Before Abraham owned the land, he built altars there. Why do you think he does this?
- By crying out to the Lord from an altar (12:8), Abraham shows us the relational side of faith—a living God is there to hear him.
- By crying out to God, whose faithfulness is Abraham ultimately depending on?



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has the concept of hybrid faith affected your personal beliefs and values? Can you reflect on a time when your faith was tested, and you had to choose between staying true to your beliefs or succumbing to outside influences?
- How do you balance having faith involving action and obedience to God while waiting on His timing?
- What does it mean to build an altar to God and call upon the Lord, even in times of uncertainty and doubt?
- How does the idea of a covenant with God impact your faith and help you trust His promises, even when they may not come to fruition in your lifetime?
- Can you share a personal experience where you, like Abraham, cried out to God despite difficult circumstances? What impact did you see, and how can you support someone else going through a similar situation?

“.....

*My soul was this day, at turns, sweetly set on God: I longed to be with him, that I might behold his glory. I felt sweetly disposed to commit all to him, even my dearest friends, my dearest flock, my absent brother, and all my concerns for time and eternity. O that his kingdom might come in the world; that they might all love and glorify him, for what he is in himself; and that that blessed Redeemer might "see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied! Oh, come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen.*

Missionary, David Brainerd (1718-1747)



## PRAYER

Take time to pray for one another by lifting one another and the issues and challenges that weigh on your hearts. As you pray, consider asking for the following:

- Courage to let go of anything that may be hindering your full following of God
- Opportunities to grow in trust and obedience, allowing your faith to be strengthened through action
- A personal altar where you can turn to God in times of difficulty and find comfort in His unwavering faithfulness.



### Further Study

- “By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Eph 2:8).
- “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb 11:6).
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/genesis/>