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TRUST: God's Purpose Plan and Design: Trusting God's Call

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Text: Genesis 11:27-32, 12:1-9

1. The SETTING

27 This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. **28** While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. **29** Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. **30** Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. - Joshua 24:2

Genesis 11:31-32

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

Have we ever settled in half obedience to God?

Matthew 6: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you

Matthew 13:22 "The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word (the message about the kingdom), but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful."

Distraction and comfort keep them from the promise.

Genesis 12:1-9 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. **2** "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. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **5** He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring^[a] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. **9** Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

2. The DIFFICULT CALL

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." - Genesis 12:1

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, **obeyed and went**, even though he did not know where he was going. **9** By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

The Promise (Genesis 12:2–3) "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. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

God makes seven promises to Abram, all beginning with "I will..."

- I will make you into a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great
- You will be a blessing (I will make you a blessing)
- I will bless those who bless you
- Him who dishonors you I will curse
- In you all the families of the earth will be blessed

Contrast this with Babel (Genesis 11). "Let us make a name for ourselves."

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble,"

The climax: *"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

The ultimate fulfillment is Jesus—through Abram's line comes Jesus. As the book of Matthew shows us in his genealogy, we see that indeed Jesus is a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." 9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. -Galatians 3:8-9

Faith in Jesus, the promised seed of Abraham allows you and I (Gentiles) to receive blessings from Abraham as well!

What did Abram do to earn these blessings? Nothing.

What other things does Abram have to do for God to keep His promises? Nothing.

God will keep this promise to Abraham and his descendants, no matter what.

"Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods" Hosea 3:1

"if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself." 2 Timothy 2:3

3. THE RESPONSE

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. - Genesis 12:4-5

Genesis 12:6 " Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land."

4. The IMPOSSIBLE CALL

The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. - Genesis 12:7

This is the tension of faith—believing God's promise even when your circumstances scream otherwise.

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Where do we get our assurance from? The promises of God.

5. THE RESPONSE

What does Abram do in this moment of tension?

Genesis 12:7 So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Between Bethel and Ai (Genesis 12:8–9)

Genesis 12:8-9 **8** From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. **9** Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Bethel—"house of God"—and Ai—"heap of ruins."

We live in the in-between

And there, "he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord." Abram worships in the in-between.

1. Leave behind our old identity and securities found in this world - half-obedience.
Jesus didn't mess around with the call to us either:

Luke 14: 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: **26** "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. **27** And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Instead of "God this is what I want." pray: "God, what is it you want?"

2. Trust the unseen promises of God -

3. God's grace is greater than we know.

QUESTION: If God has been faithful to me even when I've been unfaithful to Him, can I be faithful to others, even when they are unfaithful to me?