



“The Call of God”

Part 12

“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend” (James 2:23).

I. THE CALL OF GOD RECOGNIZES WHERE YOU’VE BEEN.

“This is the account of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no children. 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 Haran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran” (Genesis 11:27-32).

“Joshua said to all the people, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods’” (Joshua 24:2).

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath” (Ephesians 2:1-3).

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

II. THE CALL OF GOD REQUIRES OBEDIENCE.

“The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you’” (Genesis 12:1).

Abram is being asked to leave...

1. His region
2. His religion
3. His relatives

“‘Now you have gone off because you longed to return to your father’s house. But why did you steal my gods?’ Jacob answered Laban, ‘I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force. But if you find anyone who has your gods, he shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it.’ Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods. So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and into the tent of the two maidservants, but he found nothing. After he came out of Leah’s tent, he entered Rachel’s tent. Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel’s saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing” (Genesis 31:30-34).

Genesis 11:31; Romans 9:18-23

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’” (Matthew 16:24).

III. THE CALL OF GOD REVOLVES AROUND PROMISES.

1. The promise of God’s presence

“The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you’” (Genesis 12:1).

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5).

2. The promise of God’s providence

“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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse” (Genesis 12:2-3a).

“Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised” (Romans 4:21).

3. The promise of God’s purposes

“And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3b).

“Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6).

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison” (1 Peter 3:18-19).