

God's Calling

God continually calling people to walk with Him and to serve Him so that He can have fellowship with them. Man's response may vary from person to person, but to please the Lord the Word of God tells us the following: **"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."** (Hebrews 11:6)

In this message we will study a life of one of the biblical characters and how he respond, cooperate and walk with God. Today we will study briefly the life of Abraham who was considered and called God's friend. We will learn from his life how we ourselves can respond and cooperate with God's call.

1- Leave: **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) What God told Abraham? Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land that God will show him. The word 'leave' has a big rule in God's call. You cannot follow God if certain things you cannot leave. Can you tell me what are the things that God is asking you to leave? Little bit hard question, but God will give you the grace to obey. God may ask you to leave the worldly things, the wrong style or the corrupted life. So you can define what God right now wants you to leave? You need to write them down and put them as notice for you. Because if you will not leave you cannot receive the new and real blessings of God and you cannot enjoy them. God promises you all the following: **"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; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."** (Genesis 12:2-3) So all these blessings you cannot receive and you cannot be a blessing to others if you will not leave the things that God asks you to leave. **"So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran."** (Genesis 12:4) So Abram left, as the LORD had told him. So you need to leave your certain things, for example your background, your religion, your culture and whatever thing in your hand that contradicts God's calling in your life. You see how we personalize the bible and how what is written in the bible it can be applicable in our lives. **"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. 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."** (Hebrews 11:8-9) Abraham faith was perfected over the time. He did some mistakes but he repented and accepted God's correction and the consequences of his sins. For example he got Hagar while he has Sarah who was barren, and has Ishmael from her, but finally he obeyed God to send Hagar away with Ishmael.

2- Get rid of: **"But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba."** (Genesis 21:9-14)

Are you with me? There are things you had done wrong in your lives you need to get rid of them. Do you understand? **"Get rid of."** Certain wrong things in our lives we need to get rid of, that are part of our faith in God if we want to continue walk with Him. **"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."** (Ephesians 4:31) Personalize the message into your life and get rid of whatever lead you astray and hinder you from responding appropriately to God's calling.

3- Offer and sacrifice to Him what He asks you: **Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son." (Genesis 22:1-11) Abraham gave his only son as offering to God. He was willing to do what God wants him to do even if God wants to take his only son. Abraham trusted the Lord that the Lord will always provide. You need to act and treat God in the same way. Trust Him and obey what He is asking from you.**

4- Follow and teach what is right: In this passage another person who obeyed God other than Abraham is Isaac. Because he obeyed what Abraham want him to do. Like Isaac you need to be taught more of the Word of God. Some time God's Word teaching is hard; it is like tying Isaac on the altar, over the wood, fire underlying and knife on the neck, but that is the way that God wants us to be trained. God told about Abraham the following: **"Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."** (Genesis 18:18-19) God had called you to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, and to teach your children and others the same, so that the LORD will bring you what he has promised you.

My Dear and beloved: God gave us the best of what He has; He gave us His Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. We ought to obey God and to give Him our lives, hearts and the best of all what He gave us, and to teach others and discipline them to follow and to do the same, as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your encouraging Word to me. Lord I commit myself to leave and to get rid of things you want me to throw away, and to offer what you ask from me. Lord I commit myself to teach and discipline others in accord to your ways, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*