

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BULLETIN

07/09/2023



The faith of Abraham

If you ever want to see a case of remarkable faith and obedience displayed by a mortal in the Bible, there is no better example than that of Abram. His story begins with a divine call from God Himself in **Gen. 12:1**, “*Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”* Now, take a minute to ponder that call. The already-aged man of God was told to leave his country and family and take off into the unknown. Would you be willing to go if you were told today to pack up all your belongings and start traveling until you are told to stop with no further details?

Abram’s response is stunning, to say the least. **Gen. 12:4-5**, “*So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan.*” It was immediate and without question. Would it not be reasonable to ask, “Where to and why?” Truth be told, most people would be skeptical of a directive that is so open-ended, but not Abram. He packs up everything and everyone near and dear to him and sets off. Remarkably, his faith does not even cause him to question which direction.

Of course, God was directing his path, but it still took an awful amount of trust. There is more to this story that is worth noting, though. Abram first travels to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh, where he builds an altar (**Gen. 12:6-7**). However, he does not stay there and soon travels to the hill country east of Bethel and pitches his tent, where he builds another altar (**Gen. 12:8**). From that place, Abram and his caravan travel to the Negeb before going east to Egypt to escape a severe famine (**Gen. 12:9-10**). From there, our weary travelers returned through the Negeb to where he initially pitched his tent between Bethel and Ai (**Gen. 13:3**).

Finally, Abraham, at least for a time, settled by the “Oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD” (**Gen. 13:18**). Two things stand out about this remarkable story of faith and seemingly endless journey. Firstly, Abraham persevered. He did not assume that the first place was the final destination but instead continued traveling until the Lord directed otherwise. We would do well to remember that our Christian journey may take us to more than one place. We make work in a church, then go on a mission trip, then return and work on World Bible School. Or, we may move to another town, state, or even country as we persevere in doing the Lord’s work.

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Secondly, Abram did not wait until he finally settled to thank God. He did so even when he did not know God's ultimate plan for him or where he would end up. Through all that, he gave thanks continually. We should remember that thanking God is not something we should reserve for the end of our journey. Like Abram, we should say, "Thank you for for what You have done so far, God. Not sure where this path will ultimately take me, but thanks anyway." If only we could have that kind of faith, that kind of perseverance, and that kind of thankful attitude.

Now, also think of the promise of God to make him the father of many nations. He and his wife were older, beyond child-bearing age, and yet there was no hesitation or questioning. His trust in God was so strong that He just listened and did as commanded. He displayed unwavering faith in the words of **Jer. 29:12** long before the prophet heard them, "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*" God has a plan for your life. You may not see it written out before you, but with faith in His guidance and ability to protect you, you too, can step out in confidence on you Christian journey, and let Him take you where He wishes to accomplish His will. The promise He gives you is not to make you a father of many nations but a place so special, wonderful, and amazing that you cannot even begin to imagine what He has prepared for you there (**1 Cor. 2:9**).

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Cleve Stafford	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - Cleve Stafford
<u>SONG</u> - 584 - Softly and Tenderly 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 618 - Sweet Hour of Prayer
<u>PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>PRAYER</u> - Douglas Roy
<u>SONG</u> - 645 - The Old Rugged Cross 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 622 - Tell Me the Story of Jesus
<u>COMMUNION</u> - Matt 26:26-28 Douglas Roy	<u>SERMON</u> - The Storms of Life
<u>SONG</u> - 595 - Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 621 - Ten Thousand Angels
<u>SERMON</u> - Transgression and Burdens	<u>COMMUNION</u> - Douglas Roy
<u>INVITATION SONG</u> - 598 - Standing on the Promises 1,2,4	<u>INVITATION SONG</u> - 627 - The Gloryland Way
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Jeffery Tarmey	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Jeffery Tarmey



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS



Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.

We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Our next ladies breakfast is Saturday 5 August at 10:30am here at the church building. Please bring a dish to share with everyone.
- The next potluck luncheon is 30 July, please bring a dish to share with everyone.
- We will be having a oongregational meeting directly after service today. Please stay to attend it



PRAYER REQUESTS



- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Prayers for all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for eveyone returning safely from their 4th July trips and events.

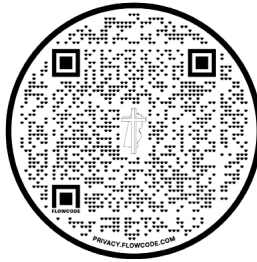
BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS



Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM (Ephesians)
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM (Genesis)
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

BURDENS	COMMANDMENT	FAULT	FOLLY
GALATIANS	LION	MATTHEW	PETER
PROVERBS	RESTORE	SINNER	SOBERMINDED
SOUL	TONGUE	WRATH	