

Following Without Alternatives

Gen 12: 1-5- 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So, Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Pro. 3:5,6- 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

What a tremendous blessings God delivers to us. To consider that He creates us, and calls us His own. He brings us into His Kingdom, His family and makes us heirs and joint heirs (Rom 8:15-17). The Father lays out a plan for us to be all that He desires us to be. He spoke to Abram (prior to his covenant conversion), and told him that He has a destined plan for him. To fulfill that plan, he would have to leave his country, his relatives, and his father's house. At that point, he will become the blessed father of greatness. God told him, ***"I will make you a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, you will be a blessing, I will bless them that bless you, and curse them that curse you. In you all families on the earth will be blessed."*** All Abram had to do was leave.....easier said than done. We are often habitual, familial creatures. We like what we are accustomed to, even when it's not healthy for us. Abram had the promise of blessing from God ahead of him with minimal instruction. He was told how to leave, and what the ultimate outcome will be. Like it is for us, Abram didn't know the in between. We know the promises, and in many respects, can visualize our destiny, but the journey, with all its twists, turns, and detours must be navigated as we embark on the promises delivered to us.

This devotional is in no way an indictment on the great father Abraham. But, if we consider with **whom** he left with, it may bear some thought whether Abram followed the exit plan prescribed by God to the letter. Abram heard God, and moved to fulfill this plan of greatness. His acumen and personality made him a great fit for this calling. But, it must have been difficult to leave his community and embark on this great calling. Did he anguish over this change? How much did he wrestle at night to fulfill the promises of God? What were the conversations with Sarah over dinner? At some point a decision was made to modify the instructions of God. *4 So, Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran.* Lot became one of Abraham's biggest problems. Abraham engaged in a negotiation dialog with God concerning Sodom and Gomorrah in behalf of Lot (Gen. 18: 20-30). The entire Moabite and Ammonite tribes were descendants of Lot's incestuous affair with his daughters (Gen. 19:30-38). Did all these things take place because of Abram's decision to **not** follow God's instruction to leave his kindred? Did Abraham think ***"I should have left that boy in Haran!?!"***

When the Father speaks direction into our lives, how often do we interject our state of mind and strategies into His directives for us? We must trust in the Lord with ALL our hearts. The leaning of our understanding may circumvent that plan of greatness or at a minimum create some enemies, foes, or rivals we and our ancestors may have to contend with later. We must exempt ourselves from alternate considerations and personal preferences when God has called us to greatness.

It is our prayer that you will prayerfully consider the great calling that God has given you, and follow His instruction without an alternative plan.

In His Service,

Bishop Cole

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