

# GUIDED BY GOD

## *Directions Without Details, Hebrews 11:8-19*

### **Called by God**

**Genesis 12:1-5 (KJV) <sup>1</sup> 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: <sup>2</sup> 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: <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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.**

- Abraham received a divine call for God
- God's call to Abraham was to leave his father's house, his relatives, and his country and go to a land that God would *show* him
- Why would God call Abraham to leave his home?
- Abraham's home the land of Ur was an immoral and lawless place that devoted themselves to idol worship
- Many times, we get comfortable with the familiar, even though it's not good for us
- God was calling Abraham *out* of that environment
- God was calling Abraham *into* a new land and a new life
- God called Abraham out of the *known* and into *unknown*
- God was leading Abraham away from his familiar that environment so that he could live for and worship the One true and living God
- Abraham would have to follow God's *directions* without any *details*
- If Abraham followed God's directions, God promised Abraham great blessings
  - He would make a great nation from Abraham
  - God would make Abraham's name great
  - Bless those that bless Abraham and curse those that curse Abraham
  - Through Abraham, all the families of the earth will be blessed
- Abraham heard the call of God and said "yes" I'll go
- God is still directing His people today and it still requires faith to follow
- It takes faith to follow God's directions
- Abraham's faith was in the One who called Him, not in the details
- We may not know where we are going, but it's easier to go when you know God is going with you
- What has God called you to do for Him?

### **Abraham Followed God without Knowing the Where**

**Hebrews 11:8-10 (KJV) <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. <sup>9</sup> By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with**

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**him of the same promise: <sup>10</sup> For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

- God called Abraham in Genesis 12 leave where he was and follow after God
- He left Haran by faith not knowing where God was leading him
- God promised Abraham an inheritance, a blessed life, and from him a nation would be generated
- But God gave Abraham nothing up front
- What God wanted Abraham to do is trust and obey Him
- What God wanted to do in Abraham's life, He wants to do in ours, to lead and guide us as we navigate through life
- We often struggle with obeying God because God often leaves out *key details*
- Abraham followed God by faith, not "details"
- Once Abraham became a follower of God, He trusted God with the details
- We must believe that God knows what He is doing, and He knows what is best for us
- We seem to have that kind of "faith" in other people and things and there is no guarantee they are working in our best interest, why can't we have that level of faith in God?

**Abraham Followed God without Knowing the How**

**Hebrews 11:11-12 (KJV) <sup>11</sup> Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.**

- Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children, but God promised them a son
- They didn't know how God would do it, but they refused to fall into the trap of doubt and unbelief **Romans 4:18-21 (KJV) <sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. <sup>19</sup> And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: <sup>20</sup> He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; <sup>21</sup> And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**
- Although Sarah was past childbearing age, she gave birth to a son because she believed God was faithful
- And through that miracle birth, Abraham became the father of many nations, just as God promised
- It's not a matter of "how" that's important, it's the "who" that important
- Can you continue to follow God's directions when you don't how He will do what He promised?

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**Abraham Followed God without Knowing the When**  
**Hebrews 11:13-16 (KJV) <sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. <sup>15</sup> And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**

- Abraham and others did not see the complete fulfillment of all God's promises in their lives
- Abraham and others in Hebrews 11 had an enduring faith, a faith that ruled their lives
- But they could see from "afar off" what God was doing
- Their faith so strong, God was not ashamed to be called their God
- Every promise God makes to us *will* come to pass; in this life, in generations after us, or in the life to come

**Abraham Followed God without Knowing the Why**  
**Hebrews 11:17-19 (KJV) <sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, <sup>18</sup> Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: <sup>19</sup> Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.**

- God gave Abraham the son, Isaac that He promised, now God wants the son back as a sacrifice
- God promised Abraham that he would be the *father of many nations*
- God was testing Abraham
- Abraham did not know *why* God was making this request
- How could Abraham sacrifice Isaac when he was the son of promise?
- It would have been easy for Abraham to question God's guidance
- Abraham believed that if his son Isaac was sacrificed God would raise him up again to fulfill the promise God made to him
- Abraham's faith was tested and rewarded
- As we follow God, He will sometimes test our faith to see if we will continue to trust, obey and follow Him even when we don't understand
- Obediently following to God is not based on *agreement*, it's based on *trusting* Him to know what's best for our lives