



## Applied Faith Men's Bible Study

South Hills Baptist Church

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# Abraham, Obeying God

## Lesson #2

Genesis 12:5-9

Obedience to God proves our love for Him (1 John 5:2-3), demonstrates our faithfulness to Him (1 John 2:3-6), glorifies Him in the world (1 Peter 2:12), and opens avenues of blessing for us (John 13:17).

Faith is necessary to please God (Hebrews 11:6), and if our faith is genuine and true, we will live a lifestyle characterized by righteousness, modeling the example set for us by Jesus Christ. We obey His commands, not because we have to, but because we want to, because we love Him. We are enabled to obey because, once we believe in Christ and are saved, we are remade. We are not the same people we once were. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

When we obey the Lord, we can live a life of joy, without shame, rooted deeply in the Lord and confident in our eternal hope. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17). Our obedience is actually part of our assurance that we truly know God (1 John 2:3).

When God’s children obey their Heavenly Father, He is glorified. Jesus told us that the plan is for others to “see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Of course, performing “good deeds” requires obedience to the One who calls us to good deeds. A Christian’s testimony of holiness is a strong witness that God is at work in the world.

“Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him” (Psalm 128:1). The Bible often tells us that God blesses and rewards obedience. James 1:22-25 says, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. . . . Whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” See also Psalm 119:1-2.

Abraham is the perfect example of this type of obedience. He was called by God to move from his childhood home of Ur of the Chaldeans. He didn’t even know where he was going. He’d never been to Canaan. He didn’t have a map, let alone access to a moving company that could transport his personal belongings to wherever it was God was leading him.

The Lord’s message to Abraham must have been very clear and convincing. The process of moving a household was much more difficult during this time than what we experience today. Some things though were identical. Think of the challenge Abraham faced just to convince his wife, Sarah, that this was an intelligent decision.

For nearly sixty years Abraham had lived in a community of people who bowed to the gods of nature. Idolatry permeated his family life. He had never heard of the God who had saved Noah and his family from a watery grave. But suddenly and unexpectedly, this God appeared to Abraham. What an awesome moment it must have been. Initially, he must have been astonished and skeptical. God not only spoke (Gen. 12:1) but the New Testament indicates that Abraham actually saw God (Acts 7:2).

The importance of obedience to God is expressed implicitly throughout the Bible. Obeying God's instructions cannot be debated. The following are verses from both Old and New Testament that speak directly to obeying God:

Exodus 19:5

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,

Deuteronomy 11:1

Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.

John 15:9

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Revelation 14:12

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

Romans 1:5

Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake.

Hebrews 13:17

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

John 15:14

You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 14:15

“If you love me, keep my commands.

2 John 1:6

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

Joshua 5:6

The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Romans 2:6-8

God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Luke 11:28

He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Colossians 3:22

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Romans 5:19

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

1 Peter 1:14

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

James 1:25

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

## Questions

To increase our Biblical knowledge, we must learn about the men that we intend to model ourselves after. The following are questions for you to find in your Bible or elsewhere concerning Abram/Abraham.

1. Who did Abram/Abraham take with him?
2. Where was their ultimate destination?
3. Name the four cities/regions that Abram and his family travelled to?
4. What people inhabited the land when Abram arrived in Shechem?
5. Who were these people a descendant of?
6. What did Abram build upon arriving at Shechem and in the hills of Bethel?
7. Why did he build these?
8. Where is the area known as the Negev?

## Application/Activity

(For Lesson #1, Hearing God's Voice)

Begin with the start of your day, whenever that may be. Basically, after you have woken up from your sleep and done your necessary morning routine. Find a quite place, free from interruptions. Set a timer of some kind for 5 minutes. Then, read Psalm 23. Read it slowly, think about what you are reading. After you have read the Psalm, begin the timer. Close your eyes and meditate on what you have read. Picture in your mind's eye all the places that are mentioned in Psalm 23. Imagine being there with God. Fight against letting your thoughts wander into your upcoming day. Focus hard on God, what you have just read and hearing God's voice. During this time of meditation ask God what He wants you to take from this Psalm. Listen for God's voice. It will most likely be the faintest of whispers.

Think of this as a workout. It's difficult at first, but gets easier as you continue. Do this 5-6 minute activity for the next 7 days.