

HOW TO BE BLESSED

SERIES ON THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

TRUST AND OBEY (Week 1)

OPENING: What parts of or points in the sermon stood out for you? Why?

INTRODUCTION: Consider these facts: a) He is revered by the followers of three world religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam; b) He is the founder of the nation of Israel; c) He is a man whose life changed the course of world history. Abraham is the most important person in the Old Testament, while Jesus Christ is the most important person in the New Testament. The book of Matthew stresses his importance in Matthew 1:1. Abraham's life is an example of faith, obedience and blessing. What do we learn from this part of his story?

READ: GENESIS 11:27-12:9

FIRST PRICIPLE: *TRUST AND OBEY.* Let us learn some aspects of trusting and obeying based on Abram's story.

1. A life of supernatural blessing begins in the _____ of faith. Read Hebrews 11:6-8 and Genesis 12:1.

At the very heart of those verses is having confidence in the promise and the person of God. It also means that we are called to live in the realm of the supernatural. The supernatural blessing of God happens within the realm of the faith.

We can only fully exercise faith outside of our comfort zone.

A. What did Abram's country, relatives and family signify? Why was it important for God to tell Abram to leave them?

B. Pastor said "The opposite of faith is security." Do you remember how he explained why?

We can only fully enjoy our blessing in community. Read Genesis 12:2-3

God's blessings are designed to be enjoyed—not just by yourself, because, honestly, it means nothing unless it impacts, influences and changes other people's lives. Whatever kind of blessings we receive, they are,

A. Beyond our self. Read Hebrews 13:16. When you receive a blessing, who do you enjoy it with first? How can you further the scope of sharing?

B. Meant to be shared. Read Matthew 25:29. Why is it important to share what you have and handle your blessings well?

2. A life of supernatural blessing _____ by obedience. Read James 2:26 and Genesis 12:4-6.

We must to obey if we want to advance; we have to move if we want to progress. A lot of us mistake movement for progress, that if we're moving we're progressing. What did Pastor call people who move but don't progress?

A. Busyness is not obedience. What did Pastor say about being busy but not really progressing? How would you rate your growth as a Christian? What do you think are the reasons for the kind of progress you make?

B. You can move without progressing; but you can't progress without moving. What steps can you take to progress instead of just "bobbling"?

C. Obedience sets miracles into motion. Read Deuteronomy 5:33 and John 15:16. What do these verses say about obedience and supernatural progress?

D. Obedience is better demonstrated in seasons of difficulty. Read Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:12. Are you in difficulty right now? How is it affecting your obedience? What should you do to grow in your obedience in the midst of difficulties?

3. A life of supernatural blessing always _____ in worship. Read Genesis 12:7-8, Psalm 100 and Habbakuk 3:17-19

Every time Abram stops to set up camp he builds an altar—to worship God. You want to experience a life of supernatural blessing? Always worship—build an altar of praise to God wherever you find yourself at, and worship God.

A. Worship always brings our full attention back on God. Read 1 Samuel 7:12. What distractions might you be battling with? How can you shift your focus?

B. Worship sets the tone of our present outlook, but also, worship propels us to our future pursuits. Do you struggle with the thought of your future? How can worship change the way you view what's ahead? Read Psalm 139:13-16.

4. A life of supernatural blessing is _____ and _____ in stages. Read Genesis 12:9

Trusting and Obeying are best developed in stages. Abraham claimed the blessing of God inch by inch. As he progressed, so did his faith. Pastor said, "You can't force God to give you everything in one lump, because God knows that what you have now is all you need to prepare you for the next phase of your blessing." Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-12, Romans 4:20-21, Romans 4:18

What do you think is the next phase in your journey? Do you want more of God and the benefits of having Him in your life?

What principle did we learned? What immediate areas of trust and obedience can you work on? Is baptism one them?

ANNOUNCEMENT:

SUMMER BAPTISM BASH – AUGUST 7 LAKELAND PATIO (Right after Sunday worship. BBQ Lunch party)

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior and you want to take your next step of faith, SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM!