

Ways To Prove Your Faith

International Bible Lesson

Genesis 12:1-9

Sunday, December 4, 2011

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“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” (Genesis 12:1—KJV).

“The LORD said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s home, and go to a land that I am going to show you’” (Genesis 12:1—GNB).

“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’” (Genesis 12:1—NRSV).

Abram (whose name God changed to Abraham) proved his faith in God by always and immediately obeying God’s commands and trusting in His promises. True, Abram did not always act wisely and rightly, for he committed sins with lasting consequences; however, every time he learned what God wanted, he obeyed in faith and believed that God would lead him rightly. Because Abram did not lead a perfect life, the Bible teaches how God considered Abram righteous because of his faith (see Romans 4).

Abram’s father, Terah, left Ur for the land of Canaan, but instead he settled his family in Haran. After Terah died, God told Abram to move with his family to the land that He would show him. Before he arrived, Abram did not know what the land would look like, but he believed that God would give him a better land, so he departed immediately. “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8).

Abram’s move required him to make many sacrifices, because God asked him to leave his country, his kindred, and the security of his father’s house. From that day forth, in a variety of ways, God taught Abram to find his security in God alone. Eventually, Abram became known as the father of all who share his faith (Romans 4:16-18). Since then, millions of people around the world have come to honor Abram for his loyalty to God and his trust in God’s promises.

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Thinking Further

1. Have you ever had to move away from your homeland or father's home? How secure did you feel? How did your faith in God influence your move?

2. Today, when you read about events that can create fear and uncertainty, how does your faith in God help you?

3. What are some of the things Abram did to strengthen his faith in God? What are some of the things you can do to strengthen your faith in God?

4. Abram moved a lot of times in the Promised Land. How can moving often have an effect on people?

5. Have you ever thought that God wanted you to move? What did you do? What was the result of what you did?