

Faith Christian Fellowship
February 12, 2017
The Way of Faith
3: Getting Back on Track

TEXT: Romans 4:11-12, 16 Hebrews 11:8-9

As the people of God, everything we have is extended to us by God's grace. The whole creation is a gift from Him, of which we have made a mess. The breath you draw is by His grace – if He was not gracious you would be toast.

As the people of God, everything we have is extended to us by God's grace. We take hold of those gifts by faith. Abraham is our example. We are following the way of faith of father Abraham

The Lord spoke that we need to build our faith this year and gave some interesting instructions. We have followed Abraham's departure from Ur and Haran, leaving idols behind. Last time we saw that it is important to stay where God puts you even if it's tough. Today, Get in line with what He told you, and you will see more of the vision..

- 1) **Reminder:** Faith has three basic components:
 - a) Heart content - keep your heart Pr 4:23 / feed the heart / Matt 12:34 ...for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
 - b) Tongue - James 3:2-15 / 2 Corinthians 4:13
 - c) Actions – no dead faith - James 2:26
- 2) What did the Lord tell you? Well, do it!
 - a) Abram is now back in Canaan, with more stuff than he had before. Notice that God has kept him and his wife, and added stuff to their wealth, all while they were not entirely steadfast in the call.
 - b) Gen 13:1-5. They now get back to moving in the right direction, toward Bethel.
 - b.i) That is the essence of repentance: I ain't there yet, but I am committed to a direction. Don't just keep walking in the same direction crying "I'm sorry." Remember the Prodigal? Luke 15:20
 - b.ii) He stopped short, going back to where he was last comfortable, God has some input he wants to make. Repentance:
 - (b.ii.1) Turn around and head for where you know to go
 - (b.ii.2) Do what you know to do
 - (b.ii.3) Listen for further instructions

- c) Next problem: strife in the camp: Gen 13:6-7
 - c.i) His problem stems from partial obedience. God said leave family, you still have Lot.
 - (c.i.1) When things seem not to be going well, **revisit what God told you.** Are you doing it, or have you added or subtracted, or even misinterpreted?
 - (c.i.2) Write down what He tells you. Your mind plays tricks.
 - c.ii) Strife, discord, is a serious problem.
 - (c.ii.1) This is not simple disagreement. It is self-seeking, demanding my way
 - (c.ii.2) James 3:14-16 KJV – strife = *eritheia* - used in a bad sense of those who seek only their own. Contention, strife, rivalry. It represents a motive of self-interest, mercenary interest.
 - (c.ii.3) Notice the results of strife: :3:25-26 / 1 Cor 3:1-3. / 1 Peter 2:7. Marital strife hinders prayer.
- 3) Abrams's response released the next phase of vision
 - a) Abram deferred to Lot: Gen 13:8-13
 - a.i) Abram offered Lot his choice of land. Lot chose the lust of the eyes. Ooops!
 - a.ii) Abram; elder, leader, patriarch, yielded to Lot. : Phil 2:1-4 / Romans 12:10 / 1 Cor 13:5b AMP "Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking;"
 - a.iii) Avoiding strife and preferring a brother is godly. Antidote for strife – love + humility+ submission. 1 Peter 5:5-7 / Eph 5:21
 - a.i) The price of obedience may look huge, but the price of selfishness is greater and eternal.
 - b) Then God spoke to Abram again, this time he got to see the land of his posterity. Gen 13:14-18

Frustrated and keep winding up back at the beginning again?

1. What did God say?
2. Are you in alignment?
3. Is there strife in your inner circle?

4. Identify, decide, take a step in the right direction.