

Gratitude that Transforms

I THESSALONIANS 5:18

Gratitude That Moves Us Forward Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

Big Idea: Gratitude begins when we trust God's promises, even before they are fulfilled.

I. Abram's Call and Promise [Genesis 12:1-3]

A. The Call [12:1]

1. The Divine Initiative
2. The Radical Command
3. The Destination Unknown

B. The Promise - The Covenant of Blessing [12:2-3]

1. God's Promises Declared [Great. . .]
2. God's Protection Ensured
3. God's Redemptive Plan Revealed

II. Abram's Faith [Genesis 12:4-9, Hebrews 11:8-10]

- A. Obedience Driven by Faith [12:4-5a]
- B. Journey Guided by Faith [12:5b-6]
- C. Worship Grounded in Faith [12:7-9]

III. God's Response to the Tension [Genesis 15:1-6]

- A. He Speaks Again [15:1b]
- B. He Reaffirms the Promise [15:5]

Then Came the Turning Point . . .
Abram Believed [15:6]

Gratitude That Moves Us Forward . . .

- . . . recognizes God's faithfulness even in the unknown.
- . . . calls us to worship along the journey, not just at the destination.
- . . . fuels obedience.

Study Questions and Prayer

- [1] Read Genesis 12:1-6. How does Abram's obedience to God's call in the last two verses demonstrate trust in God's promises, even when the destination is unknown?
- [2] Read Genesis 12:7-9. In what ways can we worship God during our journey, as Abram did?
- [3] Read Genesis 15:6. How does Abram's belief in God's promise serve as a turning point in his relationship with God, and how can we apply this to our own faith journey?
- [4] Pray, thanking God for His faithfulness and promises that guide us, even when the path ahead is unclear.

[Genesis 12:1-3] Now the Lord said to Abram, [Acts 7:3; Hebrews 11:8] "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [17:6,18:18, Gal 3:14] ³ I will bless those who bless you, [27:29, Numbers 24:9] and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [3:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14, Jeremiah 4:2, Acts 3:25, Galatians 3:16, 3:8]

[Genesis 12:4-9] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. [11:31] ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, [Heb. 11:9] to the oak of Moreh [12:6] [or terebinth]. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. [13:7] ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." [13:15, 17:8, Exodus 33:1, Psalm 105:9-12, Numbers 32:11, Galatians 3:16] So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel [28:19] [House of God] on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

[Hebrews 11:8-10] By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

[Genesis 15:1] . . . "Fear not, Abram, [Genesis 26:24, Daniel 10:12, Luke 1:13, 1:30] I am your shield; [Psalm 3:3, 18:2, 84:11, 119:114] your reward shall be very great."

[Genesis 15:5] [God] brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. [Psalm 147:4]" Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." [22:17,26:4, Exodus 32:13, Deuteronomy 1:10, 10:22, 1 Chronicles 27:23, Hebrews 11:12, Romans 4:18]

[Genesis 15:6] [Abram] believed the Lord, [Romans 4:9, Romans 4:22, Galatians 3:6, James 2:23] and he counted it to him as righteousness. [Romans 4:3, Psalm 106:31]