

Lesson: Genesis 13-15

Abraham calls on God for direction often. As Abraham waits for God's promise we see times where he would build an altar and call upon the name of the Lord. Abraham called on God for direction when he saw that the land God promised was inhabited by Canaanites. Abraham needed direction on where to go because it wasn't time to enter into the promised land yet, so he built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord. From there he was led to Egypt due to a famine in the land where he was waiting (Genesis 12: 8-10). When he went to Egypt the circumstances there contributed to Abraham becoming wealthy (Genesis 12: 10-20). Abraham was led to Egypt, to a place where he feared for his life and the safety of his wife. But by God's grace a path was made available for Abraham to leave Egypt with his life and his wife safe, and also with prosperity. God will always lead us on the best path for our benefit. He can turn circumstances around for good, and turn wrong into right. He does this every day. The key is trust, patience, and faithfulness.

One of the first things Abraham did when he was told to leave Egypt was to go back to where he had first built the altar and there he called upon the name of the Lord again (Genesis 13:4). That is Abraham depending on the Lord.

Bible Study

Our connection to God is so very important and so is our discernment. We have to be able to acutely understand what is coming from God and what is not, so we are not confused about our direction. That is why it is important to have an ever-growing relationship with God through prayer and meditation. This is how we fine tune our discernment and are able to receive spiritual direction. One of the best projects we'll ever work on is growing our relationship with God.

After Abraham enters the land of Canaan, and Lot, Abraham's nephew, separates from him because of strife, we see that God continues to remind Abraham of the promise made to him, "The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the Land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you" (Genesis 13: 14-17). After Lot was captured during the battle of Siddim and was rescued and brought back by Abraham and his 318 trained and armed servants, God continued to remind Abraham of His promise. Even when Abraham questioned the possibility of having many descendants seeing that he had no offspring as yet, "And Abram said, You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir. Then the word of the Lord came to him: This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir. He took him outside and said, Look up at the sky and count the stars- if indeed you can count them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15: 3-6).

Bible Study

There are many promises throughout the Bible that God makes to us, and as we see in these chapters, God makes promises to Abraham and Abraham has to wait patiently on Him. We also see that when God speaks these promises to Abraham, God repeats them, reminding Abraham that what He promised is real. Have you ever felt God speaking to your heart, directing you toward something, or maybe a whisper of a promise that regardless of the circumstance everything is going to be OK? God does speak to us. He speaks to our hearts, souls, and minds. God speaks to remind us of his promises, but we have to listen and pay attention to our life and how God is directing us. We also have to be faithful and patient, trusting that God has the best for us.

Take-away: Calling upon God for direction will lead us on the best path/ God makes promises to us and He will remind us of His promises to help us wait patiently/ We can fine tune our discernment by calling upon God in prayer.

Notes:

Devotional

Genesis 13-15

Think about how you arrived on the path you are currently on and in the goals you are pursuing. Was it by calling upon God? Did you feel led by God in this direction through the desires of your heart and circumstances that made this direction possible? Describe:

When God gives us direction He repeats it and reminds us that we're going in the right direction. Have you ever experienced this on your path? Describe:

Devotional

Did you ever get redirected because what you thought was the right path wasn't? How did it happen and what did you learn from it?

What obstacles on your path have made you stronger and more prepared for the direction God is leading you in?