

THE DECISION TO BELIEVE

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-4 NLT)

INTRODUCTION:

In this series, we will explore eight crucial decisions that can transform our lives and lead us to healing. Today we start with the first decision:

The decision to believe. We are going to dive into the story of Abraham, who, by making the decision to believe, led him to a life of blessing.

1. **The calling of God.** God called Abraham to leave his comfort zone and venture into the unknown. Faith begins with a calling from God that invites us to trust and obey, even when we don't know all the details. Are we willing to listen and respond to His calling for our lives?

- God calls us to leave our comfort zone. True faith challenges us to let go of our securities and trust in God's plan.
- Each of us has a purpose that is only revealed through obedience. God had a special purpose and a specific mission for Abraham.
- Faith in God allows us to discover and fulfill our divine purpose.
- The life of faith is a continuous journey of trust in God. Every step in obedience to God brings us closer to His purpose and blessing.

2. **The promise of blessing (Gen. 12:2-3).** God promises to make Abraham a great nation. Despite his advanced age and Sarah's sterility, God promises numerous descendants.

- Faith allows us to see beyond our human limitations.
- God's promises are greater than our circumstances.
- God not only blessed Abraham, but all the families of the earth through him.
- Our blessings are meant to be shared and multiplied.
- Faith makes us channels of blessing for others.
- Faith brings God's protection and favor in our lives.
- Trusting in God assures us of His presence and help at all times.

3. **Immediate obedience (Genesis 12:4)**

- Obedience without delay. Abraham did not question or delay his obedience; He left immediately.
- Faith is demonstrated through immediate and decisive action.
- Readiness to obey God opens doors to His blessings.

4. The challenges and rewards of faith.

Readiness to obey God opens doors to His blessings.

- Faith gives us the strength to confront and overcome obstacles.
- Every challenge is an opportunity to believe and strengthen our faith.
- **Rewards:** Abraham received big blessings and fulfilled God's purpose.
- Faith brings with it spiritual, emotional and material rewards.
- Obedience to God always results in blessing and prosperity.

CONCLUSION:

The decision to believe transformed Abraham's life. This decision to believe is the first step toward a life of healing and purpose. Abraham's obedience became an example for his family and later generations. Faith and obedience impact the legacies that we can leave to our generations.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever felt God's call to leave your comfort zone? How did you respond?

2. What promises from God have given you hope and direction in your life?

3. What steps can you take to obey God more immediately and decisively?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

1. **Listen to God's voice.** Spend time daily in prayer and meditation on God's Word to discern His will and direction for your life. Look for moments of silence and reflection to listen to what God wants to communicate to you.
2. **Act in faith.** Identify an area in your life where you need to take a step of faith and act in obedience, trusting in God's promises.
3. **Share your testimonies.** Encourage others with your testimonies of faith and obedience to strengthen their trust in God.

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and my personal Savior, amen.*

