

Returning to Bethel
Genesis 12-13

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I. God appears to Abram. Genesis 12:1-4

When God makes an _____ promise; it will happen!

- Because Abraham believed God, he was considered _____ in God's eyes...i.e. Abraham had a right standing with God.

Abram proved he trusted God because he _____ His call and lived his life by faith, rather than human wisdom.

II. Visiting Bethel. Genesis 12:7-9

Abraham had a real life encounter with the living God; and then he came to know God better through _____.

1. _____ for His purpose in our lives. **Proverbs 3:5-6**
2. **Communion** with Him as we receive forgiveness for sin and intimate fellowship with Him.
3. _____ for the hunger inside. **John 4:13-14**
4. **Peace**, as our minds are fixed on Him. **Isaiah 26:3**
5. _____ in Him. **Psalms 91:1-2**

Remembering what God has done for us in the past helps us to rely and trust Him for the _____ circumstances we are facing, as well as for the future. **Hebrews 11:6**

III. Abram's faith is tested by famine. Genesis 12:10-13

Like most of us, Abram trusted God for future needs, but he had a hard time believing God would take care of his _____ needs.

- Faith in God should have given Abram _____ that God was not finished with him yet! **Philippians 1:6**

IV. Back to Bethel. Genesis 13:1-4, Genesis 13:14-18

Abram calling on the name of the Lord here is a _____ of himself to following the Lord.

- The Lord rewarded Abram by allowing him to actually see what belief in God had _____ him.

The Lord wants us to accept all of _____ as if they have already happened. **Romans 4:17**

- Abram was once again walking in the Lord's vision for him; he became _____ and in full communion with the Lord.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Genesis 12:1-4**. Why did the Lord appear to Abram? What was the unconditional promise God made to Abram? Why was Abram called righteous?
1 Thessalonians 5:24, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 11:8, Galatians 3:6, Romans 4:9, James 2:23, Romans 4:22
2. Why is Bethel so important within scripture? What does Bethel represent? What did Abram do at Bethel?
3. Discuss the five things we are given when we enter into true worship which are listed in point II. of the sermon note sheet.
Proverbs 3:5-6, John 4:13-14, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 91:1-2
4. Read **Genesis 12:10-13**. What does Egypt in scripture represent? How did Abram fail during this portion of the narrative? What had to happen to Abram to refocus on God?
Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 3:12, Hebrews 6:11
5. Read **Genesis 13:1-4** and **Genesis 13:14-18**. Why was it so important for Abram to go back to Bethel? Why is it important in the life of a believer to accept the Lord's promises even when we cannot see them?
Hebrews 11:1-6, Hebrews 12:5-8, Romans 4:17, 2 Corinthians 1:20
6. Discuss the Practical Application of this sermon.