



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

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Knowing where to step is very important. But how do we know where to make that first step? Seeking God should be the way to start. Proverbs 3:6 tells us, “*Acknowledge God in all ways and He will direct your path.*” In Genesis 12: 1-9 we find someone who chose to follow God when he had no idea where God was leading him. In this passage we find God calling Abraham to take a step of faith; to take a risk and leave his homeland and his people to travel to a new land. Just as in the case with Abraham, God will often call us to do new things, or to do old things in new and different ways, and—just as with Abraham—we may not know exactly what will happen when we do these things.

Abraham chose to put his trust in God and stepped out. In doing so God blessed him and made him a blessing to many as a result. There are times that we must take risks and try new things; or try doing old things in new and different ways. I will be the first to admit that I do not like change. I doubt if I am the only one reading this who feels that way. We are accustomed to the safety net provided by remaining in our comfort zones. Abraham could have chosen not to take the risk of following God. That would have been the safe choice, and most people probably would have told him that it was the smart choice. Had he done so then he would have missed out on the blessings of God.

Did you know that before God called Abraham, his father, Terah, had already begun to lead the family to Canaan. He began the journey, but he stopped and settled in Harran. As a result, Terah missed all of the future blessing God meant for him to have. According to the Biblical genealogies, Terah was still alive when Ishmael and Isaac were born, but you never see him involved or around anymore. Instead, he died in Harran. After settling there, God called Abraham, saying “*Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*” And Abraham stepped out on faith and followed God. (Gen. 12:1)

When Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt, they took a step of faith by following this man into the dessert with no real plan for provisions or anything else. That was a risk on their part, but it is sometimes easy to take a risk when in means getting out of the bondage of slavery. When those same people were on the edge of the Promised Land and heard some negative reports from some of the spies, they lacked faith to follow God. And as a result, they ended up wandering in the dessert for 40 years.

When we chose to become followers of Christ, it was because we realized that we were missing something. We chose to let Jesus Christ remove the bonds of sin that enslaved us, just as the Hebrews chose to follow Moses out of slavery. But what will we do when we stand on the edge change? When God is speaking to us, instructing us to take a step in a direction that we did not anticipate? Will we be like the Hebrews and hesitate? Or will we be like Abraham and follow God, even though God may only be showing us the next step?

We cannot get stuck doing everything the same way that we always did. Sometimes we need to realize that some things we do may have worked well at one point but do not work anymore. I once managed a service station. When I first went to work there it was the only station in the area. The owner ran things the way he wanted to, and being the only station in the immediate area, that worked. By the time I left two new stations popped up. But the owner continued to run the business like it was the only station in town, when the people now had a choice. Because he would not change, his business dropped to the point that he had to sell it.

God has something in store for each of us. We need to be seeking His will and listening to His voice to learn what step He wants us to take. Like Abraham, there are times we need to step out in faith. So, let's step out. Try God's new things. Try God's new ways. And discover God's blessings. Are you ready?

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
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