

Bible Study 1

By Faith – Giving it up

Genesis 12:1, 4, Galatians 3:5-6, Genesis 17:1

- I. The blessing relocates
 - a. God tells him to leave his surroundings or old life.
 - i. Abraham would leave friends.
 - ii. Abraham would leave comfort.
 - b. God tells you to give up your old life and follow him.
 - i. A lot of times when you accept Christ so of your friends will leave you. Other times you may need to leave them due to their lifestyle and ways.
 - ii. In your life the comfort zones are created. The places you go, the people you hang out with and the things you do are somewhat comfortable. Acceptance in your life is key but becoming a Christian may take you out of your comfort zone.

- II. The blessing is a promise
 - a. God's promise to Abraham
 - i. Once Abraham committed to leave by faith his blessings would flow.
 - ii. God promised to help Abraham along the way.
 - b. God's promise to us
 - i. Once we give our lives to Christ and live by faith God starts to bless. Even through all the change we start to see him work in our lives. New friendships are stronger and living the Christian life is just as fun if not more fun as ever.

Bible Study 2

By Faith – Declared Right

Genesis 17:4-8, Galatians 3:8

- I. The blessing is confirmed
 - a. God continues to remind Abraham
 - i. When times got rough Abraham would begin to lose sight of what God's plan was. God was constantly there to keep him encouraged and focused.
 - b. God continues to remind us
 - i. Time will get rough in your Christian walk. God didn't promise that life would be easy. Jesus explained that the world would not accept us and that we all have a cross to bear. But through this Christian life the Holy Spirit is there encouraging us. Reminding us of what God's blessing is. It gives us the strength to go on.

- II. The blessing is everlasting
 - a. Abraham's blessing was a testimony
 - i. The whole world would see that God was with Abraham. He had blessing all around him and eventually he would have a son at an old age. God's promise would be fulfilled and Abraham's life would testify to that.
 - b. Our blessing of eternal life should be a living testimony.
 - i. When we become Christians we should be a living testimony to what God can do. He can come into our lives and change us. He will make us new and more like him every day. When people see the change and notice our blessings it will draw them in. This is why we must be a living testimony for Christ.

Bible Study 3

By Faith – Visited

Genesis 18:1-10,

- I. The Blessing causes sacrifice
 - a. Abraham gave his best
 - i. These men were from God. Was this a test of his faith and appreciation? We will not know that but we do see that Abraham wastes no time running out to greet them. He puts them in the shade and prepares the best feast out there. He gives them the very best food and drinks.
 - b. We are to give our best
 - i. When Christ comes into our lives we should run at the chance to greet him with our very best. A life sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving pleases our Father in heaven.
- II. The Blessing causes service
 - a. Abraham never forgot his blessing
 - i. Even though at this time he didn't have a son with Sarah Abraham never forgot his promise of blessing. He would humbly serve God in all that he did.
 - b. We should not forget our blessing
 - i. Often times we become a Christian and then forget the rest. We are saved to serve. We can not forget our promise of eternal life. Nor can we forget our call to tell others. (Can tie this into the call to ministry)

Bible Study 4

By Faith – The Celebration

Genesis 21:1-8, Galatians 3:9

- I.) The Blessing will be fulfilled.
 - a. God fulfilled his promise to Abraham
 - i. Abraham receives the blessing of a son at an old age. God fulfills his promise in God's timing. Although I am sure at times Abraham didn't think the day would ever come he held tight to the promise of blessings.
 - b. God fulfills his promise with us (everlasting life).
 - i. By faith we understand that God WILL come through. He always shoots it straight with us and never backs down. There will be times at which you will wonder if God is ever going to come through for you. Don't lose hope in hard times hold tight to the promises of God.

- II.) The Blessing is worth celebration.
 - a. Abraham celebrates God's provision.
 - i. Abraham gets so excited he has a celebration. The party begins with thankfulness to God for his son. When he witnesses God's mighty hand in his life he can't help but celebrate.

 - b. We should celebrate what God has done in us.
 - i. When Christ comes into our lives and provides eternal life it is cause for a celebration. Don't be ashamed of the blessings of God. Go out there and live a life of celebration. We also have a huge party awaiting us in heaven. That celebration won't end. Looking forward to that should excite you even more.