



“Dominated by Faith or Fear?”

Genesis 12:10-20

Abram may have expected clear sailing due to his pattern of faith-driven obedience. *Gen. 12:10*

- Our faith will always be tested in order to grow and mature us spiritually. *James 1:2-4*
- God is more concerned with making us like Jesus than making us “happy, happy, happy.”
- God is preparing us to accomplish missions that are way bigger than our present capacity.

Abram’s present reality caused him to shift from faith-driven obedience to fear. *Gen. 12:11-13*

- When Abram lost sight of how great God is, he stopped trusting and started scheming.
- When we take our eyes off Jesus circumstances can push us into fear-based living. *Heb. 12:2*
- Fear-based decisions give Satan a foothold and will eventually lead us to places of regret.

On the surface, Abram seemed to be prospering due to his scheming and deception. *Gen. 12:16*

- Resources attained outside of God’s blessing will eventually hurt us.

Even when man attempts to push Him aside, God is still in absolute control. *Genesis 12:17-19*

- Only God’s intervention could rescue Sarai and keep the hope of the promise alive.

Abram’s fear resulted in missed opportunities to lift up the name of the LORD. *Genesis 12:20*

- Abram left Egypt in silence and shame because of his sin and his missed opportunities.
- Despite failure, God wasn’t finished with Sarai or Abram and He’s not finished with you.

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Give examples of how our desire to be happy can run counter to God’s mission for us.
2. Explain the difference between: God making you great - God making your faith great.
3. Read *Heb. 12:1-3*. Prayerfully consider if there are circumstances in your life that have generated fear in you. Fix your eyes on Jesus and ask Him to show you His perspective.
4. Explain 3 other times in Scripture when God’s sovereign will over-road man’s intentions. Why should God’s sovereignty make it easy for us to trust in Him? Why don’t we at times?
5. Fear-based living gives Satan a foothold. This is ground he has no right to. Reclaim lost territory: Shift your focus back on Jesus - Confession - Repentance - Obedience.
6. Prayer: Even though Sarai and Abram got themselves into significant trouble due to fear-based living, God wasn’t finished with them. Thank Him that He’s not finished with you!

“Despite Failures, God Isn’t Finished With Us Yet!”