

TRACING OUR LIFE'S JOURNEY

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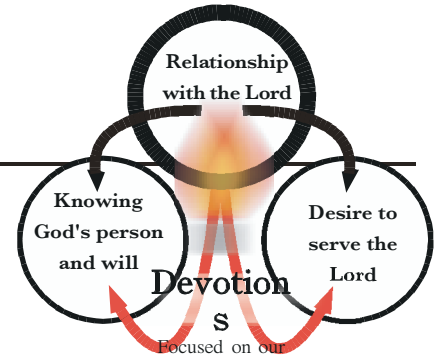
GENESIS 12-24

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Purpose:

Discover how God speaks to you about your life through your times with Him.

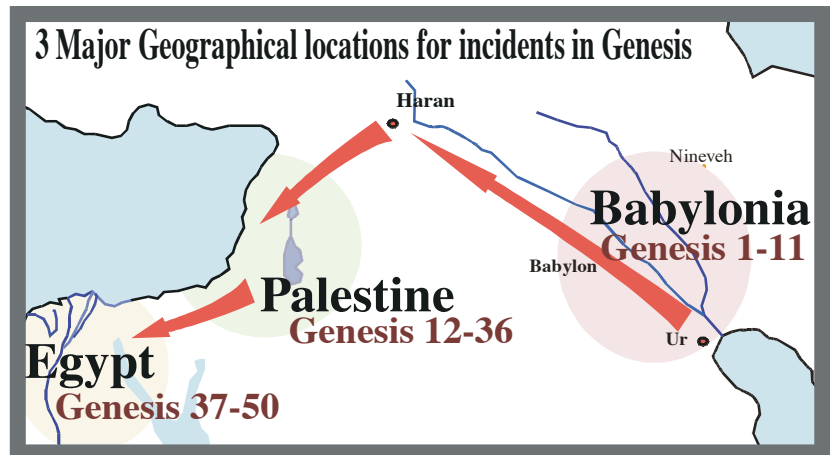


The effectiveness and fulfillment of life is largely developed by being deliberately attentive to discovering what God wants for our lives through our quiet times with Him and by responding to what He directs us to do.



Abraham's Story

Personal devotions is not something we just get done with. It is a spiritual discipline that goes on to the end of our life journey.



“Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.” Genesis 12:1-4, NASB.



God's Gracious Care

Although Abraham was a great man, the way God worked in his life is very typical of how He works in the lives of His people. Here are three key points to appreciating God's will for our lives.



- 1) God loves us and desires to commune with us.
- 2) God wants to use each one of us in a specially designed way.
- 3) We need to discern what those ways are and then obey them.



Carefully listen!

Must listen closely. Extremely important
Look and cling to God’s promises. They become
direction, motivation and faith-building words.



Life Choices

Haven’t we all made some bad decisions in life?

Our choices reveal where our hearts are.

Then Moses said to Aaron,
“It is what the LORD
spoke, saying, ‘By those
who come near Me I will be
treated as holy, And before
all the people I will be hon-
ored.’” So Aaron, therefore,
kept silent. (Leviticus 10:3)



3 Life Detours (Genesis 12:1)

“Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And
from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I
will show you;” Genesis 12:1.

A. Place Detour (Genesis 12)

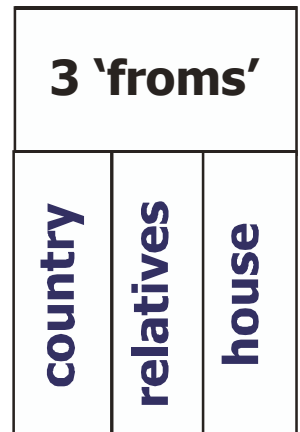
Went where he wasn’t suppose to.

B. Person Detour (Genesis 13-14)

Stayed with those he shouldn’t.

C. Procedure Detour (Genesis 16)

Did things in ways he shouldn’t.



Die to 'your'

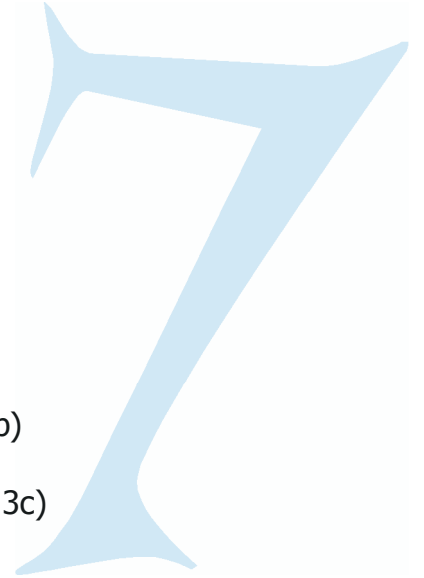
God often speaks to us through our live’s crises.
He carefully shapes these situations to arise so
that we can grow.



God's 7 Promises (Genesis 12:2-3)

“And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:2, 3, NASB.

- 1) I will make you a great _____ (12:2a)
- 2) I will _____ you (12:2b)
- 3) I will make your _____ great (Gen 12:2c)
- 4) You shall be a _____ (Gen 12:2d)
- 5) _____ will bless those who bless you (12:3a)
- 6) The one who _____ you I will _____ (12:3b)
- 7) In you all the _____ of the earth shall be blessed (12:3c)



A Life's Journey (Genesis 12:1-3)

A) Blessings are from God (Gen 12:2a) Dependent on Him (His blessing)

Not my blessing but His.

B) Blessings are to be shared (Gen 12:2b) Accountable to Him (His purpose).

Not for me but for others.

C) Blessings are to be multiplied (Gen 12:3) Grateful to Him (His abundance)

For greater purposes beyond me.

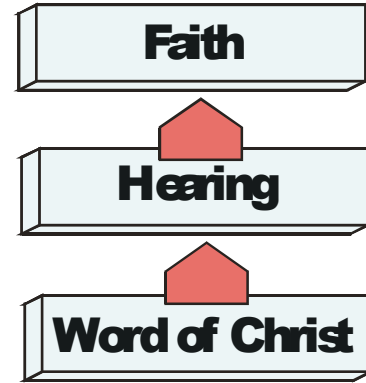




Faith Builders

Approaching God's Word becomes almost a scary event.

- What is He going to say to me?
- Do I dare listen?
- What if He asks me to ...?



“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17).

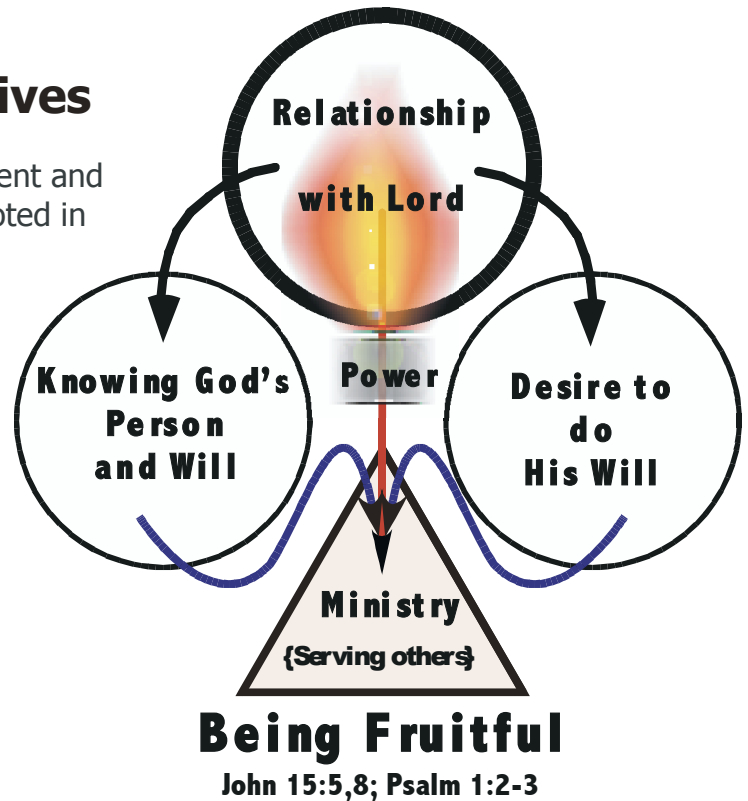


Nurturing our Spiritual Lives

Quality devotional times unleash a consistent and powerful spirit of ministry because it is rooted in the power, purpose and love of God.

Ministry is an outflow of our times with God.

- Initiating ministry
- Sustaining ministry



Dynamic Meetings with God

What are the factors that make for a good spiritual devotional time with the Lord?

Preparation of Heart



Become _____. Pray until you need Him to speak to you.

Preparation of Place



Be undisturbed as much as possible. (We get up early). (Psalm 5:3)

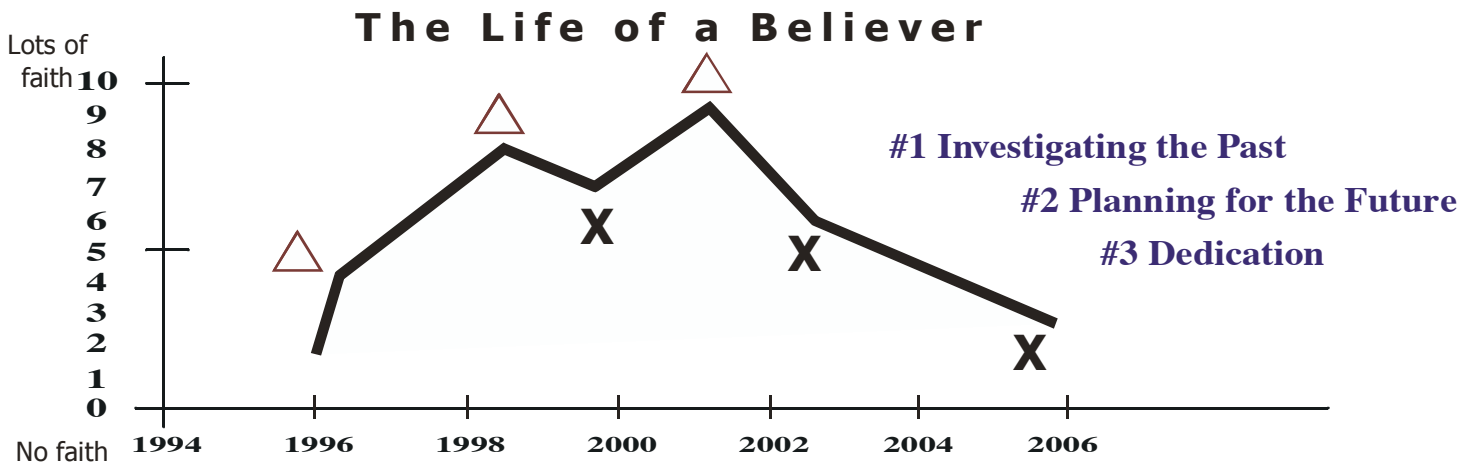
Preparation of Time



Be aware of _____ limits.
*Short
*Longer



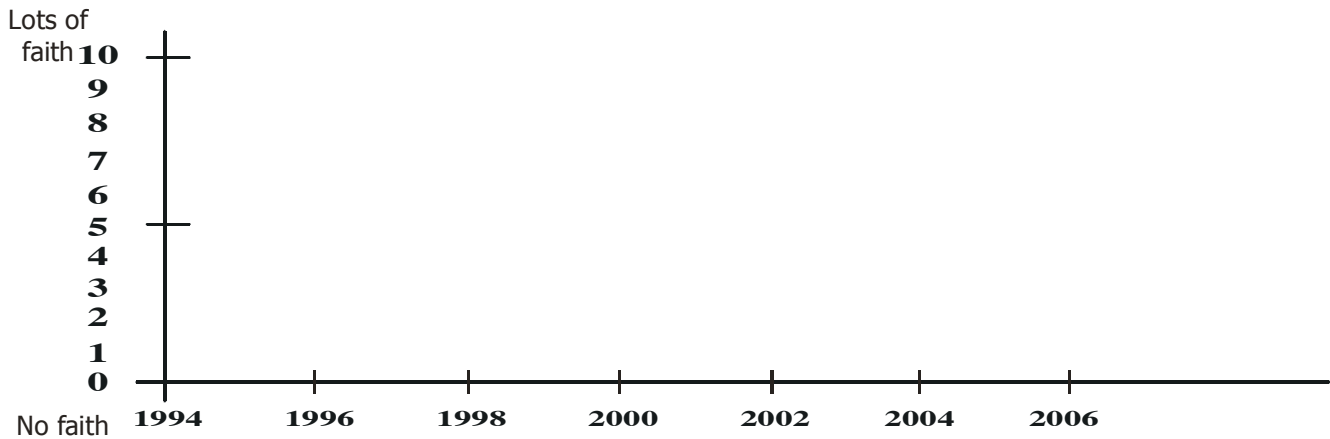
A Look at Our Spiritual Lives



Seminar Exercise

1) Abraham had his ups and downs in life. Trace your own lives' major spiritual experiences. Map a personal life chart like above. Include chief failures and significant events, etc. Write your name on chart below. We will look at only the last ten years.

- Mark key times of spiritual growth and obedience in your life with a triangle.
- Mark with an X any significant struggles and doubts that kept you down.
- Draw a line graph to connect the points like above.



2. Describe one faith struggle that you went through and remember growing from.

3. What has the Lord asked you to 'leave?' You need to be ready to sacrifice all of your own desires, dreams, comforts and loved ones. Meditate on Romans 12:1-2 along with Genesis 22. Picture yourself on the altar as a living sacrifice. Tell the Lord that you are willing to give up these things that His grace and goodness might more effectively spread to the world through your lives.



Seminar Discussion Questions

#1) Share how the Lord has led you in the past. For what purpose did He make you? What does He want of you now?

#2) Describe one past faith struggle that you went through and remember growing from.

#3) List a spiritual battle that you have or are now experiencing. Identify what the actual temptation was. How was your faith tested? Did you endure through the testing? What was God trying to teach you (James 1:2-6)?

#4) Share a time when you have grown bored, burned out, or just 'performed' the Christian life without real sincerity. How did you get into that state? How did you get out of it?

#5) Name and pray for at least one area you need to grow in. Be specific.

- * In communion with God
- * In moral integrity
- * Clarity of vision
- * Obedience & faith
- * Relationship with spouse

#6) What might the Lord have for you next? How will you better discover what He has for your life? What changes might you need to make to be able to better listen to Him?