

What is the message in Abraham's call from God in Genesis 12 really telling us? This story is very much a "cause and effect" scenario, played out in deceptively simple terms, but oh the effect the actions will eventually have!

Imagine, you're 75 years old, settled in a neighborhood with your spouse and friends, and Almighty God tells you to "go!" And initially He's not real specific on where you are to go, just pack up and get going.

Everything that represented security and comfort to Abraham was there with him in Haran, and yet God told him to pack up and leave, ultimately giving the direction to relocate to Canaan. Abraham did as he was told, and set out on this journey.

Can you think of a time when you felt compelled or obligated to take action? Maybe it was a physical move for you and your family. Maybe it was a job or career change. Whatever the reason, when you made what you felt was the right decision, how did that feel? Were you nervous or maybe even a little afraid? How did your decision work out – hopefully the end result of your decision and subsequent action was a positive in your life.

Sometimes we feel an inexorable pull in a direction or toward some action that we can't readily identify, but we weigh our options and move forward, with excitement, maybe a little hesitance, or even fear, but we move forward anyway. I saw several t-shirts when we were vacationing in Estes Park last week, emblazoned with the phrase "the mountains are calling and I must go." God was Abraham's mountain, and he was called to go.

God told Abraham he would "make of him a great nation, and ***I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*** I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you I will curse, ***and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.***" Abraham's obedience and faith in God were all he needed to do as he was directed, settling where he was told "to your offspring I will give this land."

Again, we have to ask, why? Abraham would not live to see all these promises fulfilled, but this leaping-off point had to occur for the rest of the dominos to fall, so to speak. The comprehensive change in the life of one man was in God's grand plan, resulting in a much larger and comprehensive blessing. And that blessing would be poured out to ALL the families of the earth. Abraham trusted and obeyed, and acknowledged his dependence on God along the way. Abraham was one man called to action, as insignificant as that may have seemed at the time.

What an example for us to follow! Oh to have the faith and obedient nature of Abraham. God directs us and off we go!

But isn't that what we're called to do as Christians? Are we not called to live with faith-filled obedience to God? Abraham didn't argue with God, or ask why, or pitch a fit and refuse to go. Even Moses argued when God told him to approach Pharaoh, saying who was he to bring the Israelites out of Egypt? And then God reminds Moses that He is with him he's not going to Pharaoh alone. How often do we find ourselves hesitating when we're called to "go?" When

God clears a path for us, do we follow it in faith or waiver and step aside to another destination. Are we walking by sight and not by faith?

Abraham's journey set us up to continue this story, to "go" when God directs us, to live and act in a way that represents our faith in God, and our obedience to our Father in Heaven. We are called to be a blessing to ALL the peoples of the Earth.

Likely we would all like to be routinely blessed, and aren't we really? The term "first world problems" comes to mind, which is a direct reflection of the abundant blessings we receive each day. Our lives are full of blessings, but how are we working to bless others?

Stepping out of our comfort zone as Abraham did isn't an easy exercise. Sharing our blessings as an act of our faith can sometimes bring ridicule or uncomfortable questions – but no one said this was going to be easy. I would challenge each of you to take one real and visible step to share God's blessings to others this next week. Take action even if it's outside your normal comfort zone, and remember that God is with you along the way.

God has called each of us, he continues to call us, to send us on this journey of obedience and faith, and we must go. Amen and amen!