



15:04



**Christ
Calling...**



Decline



Accept

Part 2

Called to

Obey and Follow

Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you.”

Genesis 12:2

I will make you into a great nation.
I will bless you and make you famous,
and you will be a blessing to others.

Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless you and
curse those who treat you with
contempt. All the families on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:4

So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

Genesis 12:5

He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan.

Genesis 12:6

When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

Genesis 12:7

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:8

After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east.

There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord.

Genesis 12:9

Then Abram continued traveling south
by stages toward the Negev.

Genesis 12:10

At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner.



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God's Call *Defined*

A specific message from God directly to you, that is clearly distinguishable from your own inner voice or the voice of others.

God's Call *Defined*

**It is not a common event and can
come in many ways, shapes or
forms.**

Abram's Calls

- The Lord had said to – Gen 12:1
- The Lord appeared to – 12:7
- The Lord said to Abram – 13:14
- The Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him – 15:1
- The Lord appeared to – 17:1

God's Call *Defined*

God's call is most often heard Spirit to spirit so it can be hard to quantify at times. God's call is an unmistakable, profound expression, and inner experience that you know is real.

God's Call *Defined*

- Brings new information and new responsibility.
- It means it is your turn to get involved.
- It establishes specific boundaries for your life.

God's Call *Defined*

- It means you will say yes to certain things and no to others.
- It means anything incompatible with obeying the call must be rejected in pursuit of the call.

God's Call *Defined*

- It establishes specific barriers, parameters, parenthesis, and guidelines for your life.
- Those who accept the call are able to find contentment within God's imposed limitations.

God's Call *Defined*

- **God always calls His people to someone, something, or somewhere but not before He calls us to Himself first.**
- **The greatest place to be, is in the center of God's call.**

God's Call *Defined*

God's call will always go from universal to specific and from previous to current. It will always build on the past, fulfill the present, and add to the whole.

4 Common Ways

- **A sudden experience**
- **A reasoned decision**
- **The prompting of others**
- **Blended experiences of the previous 3**

God's Call *Defined*

Your life is supposed to be lived within the ever-narrowing parameters of God's calls. One way to picture the process of God's call is the following diagram.

{ [(< Your Life >)] }

God's Call *Defined*

{Called to Personal Relationship}

[Called to Obey and Follow]

(Called to Serve God First)

<Called to Christian Service>

= Called to Christlikeness =

{ [(< = Your Life = >)] }

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Principle #1

God has called you; He has been calling you, and He will continue to call you in the future.

Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abram,
“Leave your native country,
your relatives, and your father’s
family, and go to the land that
I will show you.

Principle #1

God has called you; He has been calling you, and He will continue to call you in the future.

Principle #2

**When God calls you, you have to
make a choice.**

Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abram,
“Leave your native country,
your relatives, and your father’s
family, and go to the land that
I will show you.

Principle #2

**When God calls you, you have to
make a choice.**

Principle #3

If you reject God's universal calls long enough, He will withdraw His call and give it to someone else.

Genesis 11:27

This is the account of Terah's family.

**Terah was the father of Abram,
Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was
the father of Lot.**

Genesis 11:28

But Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans,
the land of his birth, while his father,
Terah, was still living.

Genesis 11:29

Meanwhile, Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. (Milcah and her sister Iscah were daughters of Nahor's brother Haran.)

Genesis 11:30

But Sarai was unable to become pregnant and had no children.

Genesis 11:31a

One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans.

Genesis 11:31b

He was headed for the land of Canaan,
but they stopped at Haran and
settled there.

Genesis 11:32

Terah lived for 205 years and died
while still in Haran.

Principle #3

If you reject God's universal calls long enough, He will withdraw His call and give it to someone else.

Missed Calls

- **Terah to Abram**
- **Esau to Jacob**
- **Eli and his sons to Samuel**
- **King Saul to King David**
- **Judas Iscariot to Matthias**
- **Israel to Judah to anyone of faith**

Missed Calls

- Levites to Pharisees and Sadducees to Layman Clergy
- Promised Land to Enslavement and Exile in Foreign Lands
- Holy Temple to No Temple
- Mordecai explains it to Esther

Esther 4:7

Mordecai told Hathach the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

Esther 4:8a

Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews.

Esther 4:8b

**He asked Hathach to show it to Esther
and explain the situation to her.**

**He also asked him to direct her to go
to the king to beg for mercy and
plead for her people.**

Esther 4:9

**So Hathach returned to Esther with
Mordecai's message.**

Esther 4:10

**Then Esther told Hathach to go back
and relay this message to Mordecai:**

Esther 4:11a

“All the king’s officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter.

Esther 4:11b

**And the king has not called for me to
come to him for thirty days.”**

Esther 4:12

**So Hathach gave Esther's message
to Mordecai.**

Esther 4:13

Mordecai sent this reply to Esther:

“Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed.

Esther 4:14

If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”

Esther 4:15

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.

Esther 4:16

My maids and I will do the same.

**And then, though it is against
the law, I will go in to see the king.**

If I must die, I must die.”

Esther 4:17

So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Principle #3

If you reject God's universal calls long enough, He will withdraw His call and give it to someone else.

Matthew 22:14

For many are called
but few are chosen.

**All have been Called
but few choose Him.**

Principle #3

If you reject God's universal calls long enough, He will withdraw His call and give it to someone else.

Principle #4

As you do your best to obey and follow God according to His callings, there will be plenty of moments and even seasons of darkness, despair, and defeat.

Genesis 12:7

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:8

After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east.

There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord.

Genesis 12:9

Then Abram continued traveling south
by stages toward the Negev.

Genesis 12:10

At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner.

Genesis 12:11

As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, “Look, you are a very beautiful woman.

Genesis 12:12

When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!'

Genesis 12:13

So please tell them you are my sister.
Then they will spare my life and treat
me well because of their interest
in you.”

Genesis 12:14

And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty.

Genesis 12:15

When the palace officials saw her,
they sang her praises to Pharaoh,
their king, and Sarai was taken
into his palace.

Genesis 12:16

Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

Oftentimes, when you are well on your way in obeying and following God's calling for your life, all of a sudden there will appear situations, moments, and even seasons where you will find yourself all alone in the darkness.

It is in these times that you'll be tempted to believe that all of your previous obedience, good works, and successful following of the Lord were for nothing. You will face that temptation due to the intensity of the pain and suffering,

and because of the newness of the brokenness you are experiencing. Compounding matters even more will be the understandable but often jaded perspective that your entire life is crumbling before your very eyes, even though it is not.

**It is in these situations, moments
and even seasons, where nothing
you see and nothing you are
experiencing even comes remotely
close to looking like a blessing.
But you must understand that
these occurrences are normal.**

Principle #4

As you do your best to obey and follow God according to His callings, there will be plenty of moments and even seasons of darkness, despair, and defeat.

Principle #5

When you genuinely choose to obey and follow God and His callings for your life, He becomes the God who personally intervenes and guarantees the success of His callings.

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Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

Genesis 12:17

But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

Genesis 12:18

So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. “What have you done to me?” he demanded. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife?”

Genesis 12:19

Why did you say, 'She is my sister,'
and allow me to take her as my wife?

Now then, here is your wife.

Take her and get out of here!"

Genesis 12:20

Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

Principle #5

When you genuinely choose to obey and follow God and His callings for your life, He becomes the God who personally intervenes and guarantees the success of His callings.

Principle #6

Whatever God calls you to give up as a part of your choices to obey and follow Him, He will replace in abundance.

Matthew 19:27

Then Peter said to him, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

Matthew 19:28

Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:29

And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19:30

**But many who are the greatest now
will be least important then,
and those who seem least important
now will be the greatest then.**

Principle #6

Whatever God calls you to give up as a part of your choices to obey and follow Him, He will replace in abundance.

Principle #7

There is no greater, freer, and reassuring place to be than in the center of God's call.

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