

# LEAVING OUR COMFORT ZONES BEHIND

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Genesis 12:1

The word “*country*” that appears in Genesis 12:1 is obviously a reference to a geographical location. However, I think it points us to something else in a spiritual sense as well. We can also view the word “*country*” in reference to all of the familiar areas of life where we have built our comfort zones. God’s call on our lives will always challenge us to deal with our comfort zones.

God continually calls us to walk by faith into His will. This call will require us to pursue deeper levels of faith, commitment, and service. When we walk by faith, He always stretches us in areas where we have previously found our security. We would do well to realize that God will always challenge us for those areas where we have built our security around things we know and feel comfortable with. Most of the time, we would prefer to remain in our comfort zones, rather than pursuing what we know of Him. Our initial response to anything that requires change is to declare, “I can’t do that, it’s just not me.” We often doubt our capacity to do what He is asking us to do. However, God desires for us to learn that we can do whatever is before us because He has promised to be with us and help us.

## All Things Familiar Are Only Temporary

Every earthly foundation on which the world encourages us to build our security, will be shaky at best; temporary for sure; and possessing a great potential for failure. If we choose to build our security on temporary things, then our passions and time will be consumed with preserving them. We will have little or no time left for pursuing things that have eternal value. We tend to forget that no one has a permanent abiding place here on this earth. This earth will one day pass away and be replaced with a new earth as we read in I John 2:17, *The things of this world are fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.* The Apostle Peter also tells us, *The day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment. Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives you should be living* (II Peter 3:10-11)!

## The Secret of True Security in Life

I believe that if you read Hebrews 11:8, you will find that Abraham learned the secret to having true security in life; *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.* Abraham was convinced that there was more security in obeying the Lord’s instructions, and not knowing where you were going, than there was in thinking, you know where you are going, and not obeying God’s instructions. Abraham didn’t know what life would hold for him. But Abraham did believe God’s promise to bless him if he would walk obediently by faith and follow His instructions. Abraham decided to live his life totally abandoned to God’s will. He was going to follow God regardless of where it would lead him or what challenges it would present. Abraham refused to count of the cost of being obedient to the demands that the Lord had placed on his life.

When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him He did not give them the details of their journey. He also did not tell them of the high cost they would personally pay for following Him. *And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become*

*fishers of men*” (Mark 1:16-17). Jesus emphasized to these men that in order to be His disciple, they would have to be obedient in following Him. Counting the cost should not be a factor when making their decision. *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me”* (Matthew 16:24).

The Lord doesn't reveal much about our faith journey. If we knew what lay ahead of us, we would doubt our ability to deal with it, or we would seek to avoid it all together. We tend to forget that the Lord is maturing us and growing our faith ... one day at a time ... and one trial at a time. Let me help confirm to you the maturing process in your life. Are you not stronger in your faith today than you were ten years ago? If you are, then this is only true because the Lord has used the circumstances of your life to mature and strengthen your faith in Him. In every circumstance, He has proved Himself to be faithful to His Word, and to you. No one likes to go through adverse circumstances. But if we will look to the Lord during these difficult times, amazing things will happen in our lives. *Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything* (James 1:2-4).

God wants to prove Himself to us. He also desires to give a demonstration to the world of what He can do through someone who is totally dependant on Him. It is only when we have rested the full weight of our trust in the Lord for our security, that we discover one of life's greatest lessons. We soon recognize that, regardless of the circumstances we are facing, we can successfully deal with the issues of our life with the Lord's help; *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13).

### **Remember ... We're Not Home Yet**

Regardless of our earthly address, as God's people, we are always away from home. The truth of the matter is that we will not be home until we arrive in Heaven. After telling His disciples of His departure from Earth, Jesus comforted His disciples by telling them of their home in Heaven. He told them in John 14:1-3 that He was going to personally prepare for their arrival; *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.* Jesus promised them that their physical separation from Him would one day come to an end and they would spend eternity together.

Tragically, the church today doesn't sing or preach much about Heaven and as a result, many have lost their longing for our eternal home. We need to rekindle our passion for Heaven and live our lives with the expectation that one day soon; we will be going home to be with Jesus for all of eternity ... *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God* (Colossians 3:1-3).

***Weigh Everything You Do by Heaven's Values!***

***Weigh Everything You Have by Heaven's Values!***

***Live Your Life with Heaven in View!***