

Walking with Abraham Lesson #3: Choices Have Consequences

Introduction:

1. We're continuing our NEW series: **Gearing Up in Our Faith: Walking with Abraham.**
2. The purpose of this series:
 - To help us develop a more biblical *understanding* of God's purpose and goal in our walking by faith.
 - To *motivate* individual believers to consistently walk by faith in a more biblical manner.
 - To help us as a church family grow in our *focus* and *practice* of walking by faith.
3. Today our focus is on Genesis 13 and "**Choices Have Consequences.**"

Review:

So far, we have studied Genesis 11:1-12:9 - *The Foundation of Our Faith* – we've seen:

- I. **God's Sovereign Plan in Creation // Flood // Tower of Babel – chp. 11 // the Barrenness of Sarah (11:30).**
- II. **God Gracious Choice in selecting Abraham through which the seed of the Redeemer would come – Gen. 12:1-3.**
- III. **God's Servant Responded in Faith and Obedience to the commands – Gen. 12:4-9.**

Last week we studied Genesis 12:10-20 - *When Gods People Blow It*

- I. **Circumstances Provide an Opportunity to Exercise Faith in God – Gen. 12:10.**
- II. **Wrong Thinking Leads to Wrong Actions – 12:11-13.**
- III. **Sometimes God Blesses in Spite of Our Faith, Not Because of It – 12:14-16.**
- IV. **God Exposes Our Lack of Faith – Gen. 12:17-20.**

I. The _____ to Our Faith – 13:5-7.

- A. _____ – 13:5-6.
 - Abundance not only battles for our heart, it can complicate our lives.
- B. _____ – 13:7.
 - There remains continuing obstacles to the fulfillment of God's promises.

II. The _____ of Faith – 13:8-13.

- A. _____ Extended – 13:8-9.
 - There are a couple of points to be made here:
 - God in His grace allows us to make choices; therefore, we should make sure we are making _____ choices.
 - God _____ the things we tend to _____ on so we can focus on Him!
- B. _____ Revealed – 13:10-11.
 - Lot made his decision based on what his eyes saw – *sound familiar?*
 - *"No married couple suddenly divorces. No home suddenly fractures. No church suddenly splits. Nobody becomes a cynic overnight. Nobody makes one leap from the pinnacle of praise to the swamp of carnality. Erosion is a slow and silent process based on secret choices."* – [Swindoll, Simple Faith, p. 165]

C. _____ Determined – 13:12.

D. _____ Described – 13:13.

III. The _____ of Faith – 13:14-18.

A. God's extravagant _____.

- This reaffirmation comes at a strategic time—in the midst of Abraham's challenges with (1) the land and (2) potential loss of the means to fulfill the promises.
 - Lesson #1: God knows when to _____ us and when to allow _____ to confront us!
 - Lesson #2: God has so much more in store for those who love him.

B. Abraham's growing _____ – 13:18 [3rd altar he built].

- *Q: Do you know what the best part of this passage is?* A: It's that we see a _____ in Abraham.

Conclusion:

Philippians 2:13 " *13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*"

Next Week: Genesis 14: " *Getting Your Faith Stretched.*"