

Let the Journey Begin

The Study

“Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3 (CJB – The Complete Jewish Bible)

This series is to set a pace of discovery for 2015 as we strive to be more like Christ (**Eph. 4:13**) with each passing day.

As a starting point read **Genesis 12** through **14**. This is the beginnings of the faith journey of Abram (later to be known as Abraham). I love the first verse (ch. 12) as a starting point. As we all know, getting started is one of the toughest things about faith obedience.

“Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father’s house...”

1. What has the Lord called you to get away from so that He can bless you?
2. Are you willing to faithfully follow Him into the unknown (unknown to you, not to Him)?

I have taken risks by exposing my weaknesses, most recently this past Sunday. I explained that I am in a dark place spiritually and even while I am spiritually struggling I have remained pure in my faith, not surrendering to the devil’s temptations of abandoning the truth or my position as pastor. What is the risk? Most people want a leader who shows no wrinkles in their armor – or, at the very

least does not admit it. In admitting my recent “crisis of faith” I risked losing your confidence in my spiritual guidance because of my spiritual struggles. However, I would rather you understand that I see myself in the same struggles (in the same foxhole of spiritual warfare) with the folks the Lord has given me to lead; dealing with our sinful nature and facing the same enemy as all faith sojourners before us.

The Apostle addressed this very issue of physical strife.

Romans 7:21-25

1. What is the one thing that makes us feel like a failure? (Your first response is the right answer.)
2. Is Paul’s struggle with God? Explain.

Philippians 3:9-16

1. Verse 9-11 – Does our life of righteousness come from our lives of perfection, or from something else? Explain.
2. What is Paul referring to by saying “that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead”? What goal is this?
3. Verses 12-16 – What does Paul admit to his readers?
4. What is he going to do in light of his lack of achievement?