

Genesis 11:27-13:4 • Abraham and the Cycle of Faith

1. (11:27-32) **Partial** obedience to God's Word and will can be **costly** in lost time and personal loss. Abram began to leave the **old life** as represented by leaving Ur, but he did not arrive at **God's** desired destination.
2. (12:1-3) How well do we trust God's **plan** for our life, and in the pursuit of that **path**, trust in His personal **work** in and for us? What might it take to get us to complete the **journey** we began from the old life in the **world** to the new one in **Christ**?
3. (v.4-6) Our best **position** in this life is to be established on a firm **foundation** of **obedience** to God's Word and ways.
4. (v.7-9) We are to treat this life as a temporary **residence**, ready to go when and where God **directs**, and always engaging in our primary purpose where God is concerned—**worship**.
5. (v.10) In the course of this life, our faith and trust in God will be **tested**. Regardless of how **severe** the circumstances, the answer is never to **return** to our old life.
6. (v.11-13) **Sin** always leads to more **sin**; a single, unaddressed **compromise** in the direction of our old life ultimately **returns** us there completely.
7. (v.14-20) Biblical **faith** trusts and believes God regardless of the circumstances and never resorts to human **conniving** or worldly **craftiness**. It not only wreaks **damage** upon us personally, but in our Christian **witness** to the unsaved, who are often more **diligent** in these things than we are.
8. (13:1-4) Forgiveness and restoration do not automatically **erase** the **consequences** of our choices, especially those involving **sin**.

Conclusion:

(Heb. 11:8-19) It has been observed that the summary and legacy of Abraham's faith is...

- (v.8) He believed God even though he did not know **where**...
- (v.11) ...believed God even though he did not know **how**...
- (v.17-19) ...and believed God even though he did not know **why**.

This was born out of the viewpoint which was not merely a **doctrinal** statement, but something he **lived**, "having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth...they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one". (v.13-16)

(Rev. 21:10-11; 22:3-5)