Abraham, a good example of a person who was led by the Spirit - part 2

 **Genesis 12 New International Version (NIV)**

The Call of Abram

**12**The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

**4**So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;

If I am going to go to a new place God has for me, I have to be willing to leave the place I am at, first.

To take hold of what God has for me, I have to be willing to let go of what I am holding onto now.

Before I can find new friends that will encourage me, I have to leave the negative friendships that are bringing me down.

Before I can experience God’s miraculous in my life, I have to stop living by the standards of this world.

Before I can make wise financial decisions, I have to let go of bad financial decisions

Before I can enter healing, I have to exit my hurt and let go painful memories

To work in the Spirit, I have must stop walking in the natural.

I have to let go of my lazy excuses to become energetic and productive

I can’t stand until I stop sitting.

I have to leave my impatience and dissatisfaction to enter peace and find a state of contentment.

My parents couldn’t go the mission field until they were willing to leave the US.

This is the way of the Spirit…this is what it is to be Spirit-led.

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**6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.**

**Abram naturally did what God wanted him to do.**

**Visit the sick**

**Encourage someone you know that is struggling**

**Help someone in need.**

**Your doing what you should because God is in you and gives you the desire to do the right and best thing.**

**Many times you don’t get a specific leading from the Spirit.  You just do what you know to do, you do what appears to be best. You see an open door and you walk through it. You use your common sense. But you always keep your ear open to the Holy Spirit’s leading.  I am always asking the Holy Spirit to guide me, stop me or start me as I am in motion.**

**Psalm 37:23 New King James Version (NKJV)**

**23**The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the Lord,

And He delights in his way.

Move in the direction that your godly desire directs you and God will make sure every step you take is appropriate.

As Abram traveled through the land, he was doing precisely what God would tell him to do in the future…travel the length and breadth of the land…I am giving it to you and your decendants forever!

**7**The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

When the Spirit is leading you, God will make Himself known to you. I’ve heard people complain that God never shows Himself to them, but they aren’t following Him. If you follow Jesus, He will reveal Himself to you.

**8**From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

When you are Spirit-led, the names of God will mean everything to you.

**Proverbs 18:10 New International Version (NIV)**

**10**The name of the Lord is a fortified tower;

    the righteous run to it and are safe.

The Spirit-led person thinks differently. Their first reaction to anything is to call on the name of the Lord.

**9**Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

**Abram in Egypt**

**10**Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

**Providence pushes us to places we wouldn’t have gone ourselves. Covid shut to door on travel, therefore God shut to the door on travel. We should see God’s hand in everything.**

**11**As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. **12**When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. **13**Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

Abram acted out of fear. This is not being led of the Spirit. But even if you do, God can still work all things together for our good.

**14**When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. **15**And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. **16**He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

Even when you make mistakes, if you are governed by the Spirit, God will protect you and your interests.  You are under grace! God’s favor is on you and over you even when you make mistakes!

**17**But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai. **18**So Pharaoh summoned Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? **19**Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!” **20**Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

**Genesis 13 New International Version (NIV)**

**Abram and Lot Separate**

**13**So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. **2**Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

**3**From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier **4**and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

A pattern of calling on the name of the Lord

**5**Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. **6**But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. **7**And quarreling arose between Abram’s herders and Lot’s. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

**8**So Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives.

**Let the peace of God rule not only over your thoughts and feelings but let the peace of God rule over your relationships.**

**9**Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.”

Abram was meek, gentle…secure enough in God’s leading that he let other’s make decisions, even big decisions.

The Spirit-led person know that God not only governs them, but also is in control of everything and everyone around them. Meekness - God’s strength under God’s control.  Meekness or gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit.

**10**Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) **11**So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

**How do you make decisions? Do you take the opportunity for yourself based on what you see or do you ask the Spirit to govern all your decisions?  Something might look like the garden of God on the surface but turn out to be hell on earth once you make the move.**

**Lot was opportunistic will Abram was meek.**

**How do you make decisions led by the Spirit? Well, you don’t move until the Spirit makes it incredibly obvious to you. Usually if you make a decision because of someone else’s pressure and urgency, you will make a mistake. Wait until you hear from God…God will show you.**

**We have to practice and learn to listen for God’s direction and His voice.**

**Read the Bible**

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**When you make a decision because you know God is leading you, be decisive**

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**Proverbs 3:5-6 New International Version (NIV)**

**5**Trust in the Lord with all your heart

    and lean not on your own understanding;

**6**in all your ways submit to him,

    and he will make your paths straight.

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**14**The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. **15**All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-334a)] forever. **16**I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. **17**Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

**18**So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the Lord.

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