

Testing and Testimony

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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God oftentimes tests His people. Abram (Abraham) was tested many times. When God commanded him to leave his father and bring his family (his wife Sarai and his nephew, Lot), possessions and livestock to a strange land, he obeyed because of his faith. Similarly, as Christians, our spiritual journey is a long, winding road of uncertainties; hence, we must surrender ourselves to God and let Him steer our life. He will win our skirmishes and battles against the evil one.

THE IRRESISTIBLE CALL OF GOD (Gen. 12:1-5)

1. God called Abram by name. He told Abram to depart from Ur, a center of economic development, commerce and culture; however, it was also a center of pagan worship and it was a sin city. Thus, God wanted him to be set apart from idolatrous heritage, from people that can corrupt him. Abram obeyed immediately.
2. When God calls, His call is always personal. He calls us by our name, "you are mine" (Isa. 43:1, Jn 3:10). He wants to separate us from friends of bad influence (1Jn 2:15). He can not use us if we are still being used by the world.
3. He calls us to live a way of life away from sin. "It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).
4. Moreover, God is a relational God. He wants a personal relationship with us. He empathizes with us in the same way we empathize with others in order to imitate Him. Anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him" (1 Cor. 6:17, Rom. 8:29). This requires that we should know Him: give time to reading the Word and talking with God in order to recognize His voice and know His will.

FAITH REQUIRES OBEDIENCE.

1. The object of faith is God alone. Our faith is tested by obedience. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Abraham was tested many times but he remained obedient to God. This made him a father of many nations.

2. Through complete obedience, we are welcomed to the house of God. On the contrary, disobedience causes sin to enter. Sins such as adultery, fornication, slander, immorality, stealing, lying, etc., separate us from God. He wants us to be in complete obedience to Him, and do exactly what He says:
 - a) Delaying to do a task entrusted to us is disobedience;
 - b) Obeying just because we are compelled is also disobedience.
3. JESUS CHRIST WAS OBEDIENT UNTIL DEATH. Jesus Christ left His home in heaven to obey His Father because of love. "He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death" (Phil. 2: 8).

God's Promise to Abram (Gen 12: 2-3)

By Abram's obedience, God promised him three things: to give him land; to make him the father of many nations and to give him so much blessings (Gen. 12:2-3).

The Beautiful Plan of God for us

God's call also involves God's vision. Do we see the plan of God for us? "I am the only one who knows the plans for you (Jer 29:11). We must humble ourselves and obey Him; "He exalts the humble, opposes the proud (Jas 4:6-7).

Conclusion:

Part of our Christian obligation is to act like ambassadors in our community. As we experience victories against problems/trials/challenges, let us be God's witnesses so that others may be inspired that there is a solution to every pain, suffering and hardship. We should spread God's love to our relatives, friends, colleagues and those who do not know Him.

Reflection:

1. Are you obedient to the voice or will of God?
2. What are you willing to give up to honor God?
3. How will you witness and share your beautiful experience with God?

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