

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Half Way There

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### Introduction

Our God is an active, present tense God. He has purpose and direction. Because of His nature, He is doing something among His people and He doesn't ask our permission concerning His actions. Even if we don't like what God is doing, it is always wonderful when God moves. When He takes action, it means that things begin to change. When something new occurs that also means that we have to change in order to keep up with what the Lord is doing. One of the best examples of this is Abraham.

### Abraham's Example

Acts 7:2-5 NASB

- (2) And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,
- (3) and said to him, 'LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.'
- (4) "Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this country in which you are now living.
- (5) "But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and *yet*, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM.

God sovereignly intervened in Abraham's life, which required major change in Abraham and his circumstances. First, God's instructions are very clear: Abraham must leave his country and he must leave his relatives in order to go into the land that God wanted to show him. Abraham was only partially obedient. He left his land but he didn't leave his relatives.

Abraham's entire family left Mesopotamia and settled in Haran. And there they stayed until Abraham's father died. Then, Abraham continued on with the Lord but he still took Lot with

him, which caused him a lot of trouble later. The interesting thing is Haran is about half way from Mesopotamia, the land of the Chaldeans, to the land that God wanted to give Abraham and his descendants. In following the call of the Lord Abraham stopped his journey when he was only about half way there. Was this because of his family? We don't know but it would seem reasonable since Abraham only continued on in obedience to the Lord after his father had died.

To leave all that you know as Abraham did is one of the most difficult things that we can do. He had to leave his familiar, comfortable place and go into the unknown with only the promise of God. Maybe, that was why he kept some of his family with him, so that he wouldn't be completely alone.

## **Change Required**

All progress that we make in God requires change and change is difficult. Each time that this occurs, it presents us with a new set of challenges, We face a new set of problems, a new set of issues, a new set of adjustments. The moment that we get comfortable with the new circumstances, the Lord moves on requiring us to continue to change and adjust to his purpose.

The only way that we can reach the future is to let go of the past. As long as we cling to the past we can never reach the future. We end up in Haran—half way there. Many times God will use someone to push us. We need that even though God is speaking to us and revealing His plans to us, we have to overcome that initial resistance to change. Nobody changes because they want to; people change because they have to.

### **Five Areas of Adjustment**

Whether we like it or not, if we want to move on in God, there are five areas where we will need to make adjustments and change.

1. To fulfill His purposes we must be willing to adjust our life, our beliefs, our plans, and even to adjust where we live, if necessary.
2. We must be willing to adjust any or all of our circumstances, including our work, our finances, our recreation, all of the things that surround us on a daily basis.
3. We must be willing to adjust our relationships, including our business relationships, our social relationships (our friends), and any prejudices that we hold. God is no respecter of persons—He holds no prejudices, neither can we. Our methodology of creating relationships may also need to change. The Lord doesn't establish relationships through networking but through His Spirit.
4. We must be willing to adjust our predispositions, traditions, and doctrines, including how the family is structured, how the father is supposed to act, what it means to be a husband or a wife.
5. We must be willing to adjust our beliefs and our actions. As we move on in God our actions change according to our understanding of the ways of God and if we hold incorrect beliefs, we have to adjust to the truth of His Word.

These areas of adjustments are all encompassing. God can touch any or all of these in order to prepare us to move when He calls. In my own life I have had to make many of these adjustments.

Over the years we have had to leave family, friends, jobs, homes and familiar circumstances in order to follow the call of the Lord on our lives. Sometimes we have made mistakes and missed the direction or move on our journey that the Lord desired. But, just as the fish spit Jonah out on the shore near Nineveh even though Jonah had run in the opposite direction, God redeems our mistakes so that we can fulfill His calling.

Let's remember Abraham *“for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”* (Heb 11:10 NASB) We have the same goal; however, it is not achieved until the New Heavens and New Earth in New Jerusalem [Revelation 21:1-4], Let's make our stay in Haran short. We don't want to live our lives only half way there.

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