At the end of last weeks message the Holy Spirit prompted me to invite you to lift your hands if you felt that God was calling you to faith in Him (no hands went up).

Then I asked if God was calling any of you to commit your life to the building of His Kingdom (again no hands went up).

Then I asked if anyone felt like their daily communion with God was not up to par (and many hands went up).

I’m not sure if that was because you felt that I would continue asking, only you know for sure…

I do believe you genuinely want to grow in your journey of faith, as do I.

To do that, God has led me to continue one more week in Genesis 12 to show us the importance of communing with God daily.

Especially including Him in the daily details of our life.

We left Abram in Genesis 12:1-9 celebrating God’s faithfulness & blessing in his life… building altars of praise as God led him and his family to Canaan.

Today we will see a different side to Abram… Facing an event that plunged him from Faith to Fear.

V10 tells us that there was a severe famine in the land so Abram went down to live in Egypt for a while.

So firstly, it was a sudden;

1. Fear concerning Physical Things.

It would appear that God was testing Abram in order to grow his faith.

Only Abram didn’t pass, and things got worse from there…

Why would God do that? Because God knew that Abram was only trusting him for the “big picture” of his life (to make him the father of many nations, V2-3, etc…),

The problem is that Abram was relying upon himself for the daily issues of his life (like food).

Showing that his daily communion with God was not what it should have been.

Did Abram do anything different than you or I if we faced a great famine? Probably not, that is if we find ourself in the same condition as Abram Spiritually.

That place led Abram to depend upon logic and wisdom to tell him what to do.

Many Christians today trust God for the “big picture” of their life as well. (Salvation, Heaven, their mansion, etc…), but often find themselves leaving God out of the daily details of their life (i.e. physical, spiritual, financial, emotional, relationship needs).

So they live on however little or much logic or wisdom they have. Or they rely on GOOGLE for answers.

The problem with that is that God has an AMAZING plan for your life that GOOGLE knows nothing about.

So how can we improve our daily communion with God?

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, and instructed them to ask their Heavenly Father for their daily bread.

He didn’t say to pray only when you run out... God wants us to talk to Him every day and commune with Him…, rely upon Him in every situation no matter how big or small.

Logic and wisdom (as great and as helpful as they are) can sometimes be a major hinderance to our walking by faith and not by sight.

Logic and wisdom tell us, “you just got back from Costco! You’ve got enough food for a MONTH”. It’s ridiculous to pray that God will give you your daily bread!

Friends, Jesus never taught His followers to pray when it seems wise or logical… To wait until when the waves are rocking your boat and you’re about to get tossed out into the angry waves of life.

He taught us to pray this way to keep us on the pathway of DAILY faith and communion with His Father, God. To connect us daily to Jehovah Jirah (God our provider).

This keeps will keep us walking by faith and not by sight.

Logic and wisdom are great until they try to move you off of the pathway of faith… and get us living by sight rather than by faith in God.

Then we need to set wisdom & logic aside and trust God for what is needed.

Just after teaching His disciples about prayer (Matthew 6:5:15), Jesus instructed His disciples in Matthew 6:25-34 not to be fearful and worry about:

your life, what you’ll eat or drink, your body or what you’ll wear? Isn’t life more than food or clothes?

Look at the birds, who takes care of them? God does…

Look at the flowers in the field, who takes care of them? God does…

Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Bible - V30-32

Abram (as well as all believers today need a STRONG DOSE of the cure for worry… V33-34

Live each day by faith one day at a time… We are all recovering addicts… addicted to self, logic, wisdom, chocolate and many other things…

If God hasn’t given you something it’s because you don’t need it, or you don’t need it yet!

If you’re seeking first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness, you can bet your bottom dollar that God will supply you with everything you need to successfully build your part of His Kingdom until He takes you home.

Worry is ultimately sin, because what one is saying (without saying it) is “God must NOT know about my situation…” when He does!

Or that “God doesn’t care…” when He cares more than you could ever imagine.

Or that “God won’t provide”, so I have to take matters into my own hands, when in fact your are now circumventing His promise and working against Him!

Most people don’t receive, because they don’t pray, or they’re praying for self-centered reasons rather than building the Kingdom of God…

How do we know Abram didn’t pray? If he would have, his beautiful unselfish prayer would have been recorded…

What might his prayer have sounded like?

1. God please protect my wife.
2. Give me strength to be honest in my dealings with the Egyptians.
3. Lord, you’re servants need food to eat in the midst of this trial… we believe by faith that you are greater this famine we are facing.

Trusting God and communing daily with Him in prayer go hand in hand.

What have you been asking Him for daily?

Do you have a prayer journal that you turn to every day to pray for certain people and certain things that will build God’s Kingdom? NO?

* Than how is God going to bless? How will he save, change & transform people’s lives?
* How is He going to open doors and move us out into the community to accomplish the mission He has given His church?
* Where will the funds come from to pay off our $39K mortgage so we can build new buildings and strong Christian lives?
* How are young people going to come and stay?

How is He going to do all of that… when we don’t pray daily?

This is the exact point of Abram’s failure… that caused him to fall from faith to fear…

Fear often produces secondly…

1. Deception and a Duplicitous Lifestyle. V11-15

Webster nails the meaning of this… from the Latin “duplicitous” means “double” in which you intentionally hide your true feelings or intentions behind false words or actions.

There are two yous: the one you’re showing and the one you’re hiding. The one you’re hiding is to make others believe something about you that isn’t true…

Abram turned to lies & deception to accomplish his hidden agenda… self-preservation…

He lied and told people what he thought they wanted to hear (at everyone else’s expense) to accomplish his goal… and save himself!

When a person starts down this road, all kinds of wrong and ungodly things begin to be tolerated and justified in their life… to the point where they no longer see them as wrong.

But just because we think in our minds that something is right for us,

it doesn’t mean that it is… Isaiah 5:20-21

Think about it… in our world today we say; “it doesn’t matter if I leave my wife! She burns my Ramen Noodles! God wants me to be happy, not miserable!

He’s got plans for me, that don’t include me dying of lack of nourishment, so I’m gonna shack up with someone who can meet my needs!

When we make decisions like that, that are clear violations of God’s Word, we have reduced the Bible to just another source to take under advisement.

When God’s Word is viewed as something to be avoided because it tells us things that would require us to change, sacrifice, or bring a loss of comfort or make us unhappy… You’d might as well never open it…

Friends, people who live apart from God, who deceive and lie, do so for a reason… because they themselves have been deceived and lied to by the enemy…

How do I know that? Where does God instruct people to disregard Him daily, to deceive/lie to others for personal gain or self-preservation…?

That’s in the book of Beelzebub 1:1

God lovingly instructs us to put on the “belt of truth” (Ephesians 6:14)

Why? Because it prevents us the shame of having our life fall down our ankles…

It holds up our life and witness for Christ. Lastly… Fear brings…

1. Hurt and Shame.

Some who may be trying to condone their own deceptive and duplicitous lifestyle might argue that Abram’s wife was his sister (Genesis 20:12).

And that is ½ true… But in God’s Kingdom ½ truth is still called a lie.

* Proverbs 6:16-19
* Psalm 101:7

God doesn’t believe in degrees or shades of lying. It’s either true or it’s not!

Nor does God call our ethics to be situational.

It’s funny how people never seem to have a problem with any of that until someone else does it to them. Then all of a sudden becomes wrong… Amen!

Jesus also instructed His followers to; “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Matthew 7:12

Why does God call us up to His High & HOLY standard of living by His “Golden Rule”?

To make sure we maintain our place in His kingdom and to keep us from great personal pain, pain for our spouse, children, the people in our life…

Dishonesty creates a chain reaction (even if you don’t think it does)…

And yes, you may get away with your sin and even even enjoy it for a little while, but Numbers 32:23 reminds that “your sin will always find you out”.

The hard part for those around you, especially if they are believers, is they are called to continue to love you, and help you get back into a right relationship with God, so that your life can be blessed again and you can become a Godly blessing to others (which was God’s original promise and plan or Abram V2-3).

What hurt and shame was caused by Abram’s lack of faith? V16

Every single time another sheep, or cattle, donkey, servant or camel came in the door, it was a shameful reminder to him of what he had done…

He had sacrificed his wife on the altar of another man’s bed… and these possessions is what he had to show for it…

Finally, God reaches the point where He says: “ENOUGH”

V17 – God inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household. Why? Because He hated them? No…

Because Sarai was a major part of the plan that He had for Abram…

How could he be the Father of many nations without her?

V18-20 – This is similar to what happened when Jonah had his time of disobedience to God and gets on a ship headed the wrong direction.

God creates a violent storm and the people on board begin to understand that Jonah must have made God mad, so they throw him overboard.

Notice that Abram left walking, not talking… with his head hung low… because his life & faith in God had confused people about God, rather than leading them to God.

Are you leading people to a daily faith & communion with God?

Where did Abram go? Genesis 13:1-4

What a loving, mighty, forgiving God we serve…

God knew Abram was heading back to the place where he had left God to go to Egypt because of the famine… He went to get back on track with God.

Do you need to get on track with God today?

He hasn’t gone anywhere, He’s right where you left Him. If you need to get back on track with God, come to altar, God is waiting there for you.