

Where You Start is Where you Finish

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 12.

B. The Word of God is a sword.

1. People need to know what God's word is.

2. Some are in fellowship with Lot—these people need to be lovingly informed about this.

II. Abraham began with the promises of God—it was the cornerstone of his life.

A. There were tremendous personal costs for Abraham—geographical relocation, vulnerability, giving back his son.

B. We are emotionally comfortable with the promises of God because we partake in the divine nature through them. (II Peter 1)

C. However, we need obedience.

D. The digestion process for the believer is meditation and obedience.

III. The result of Abraham's faithfulness.

A. Jesus Christ is the son of Abraham. (Matthew 1:1)

B. God is known as the God of Abraham. (Matthew 22:32, Romans 4)

C. What was lost in the garden of Eden, Abraham restored. (Hebrews 11:8-19, Genesis 12)

D. Abraham was respected by his wife. (I Peter 3:6)

IV. Lot came to different conclusions than Abraham.

A. He was a loner who did not recognize that blessings come from God. (Genesis 13:5)

B. He failed to take initiative in family reconciliation. (Genesis 13:8)

C. He made decisions for personal financial gain. (Genesis 13:10-11)

V. Effects obey their causes. (Galatians 6:7-8)

A. Abraham believed God, he obeyed God, he was honored by his wife and he ended up in heaven. (Luke 16)

B. Lot dishonored God, he had an ungodly posterity, he was dishonored by his wife and all that we can say is that he may be in heaven.

C. Choices have consequences.

Application questions:

1. How will you commit to a more regular program of meditation and obedience?

2. How was Abraham blessed through his meditation and obedience?

3. What negative results have you seen in your own life or the lives of others from failing to follow God in faith?
