

# From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 12:10-20

"No Need for Fear"— June 12, 2022



## Introduction

In Hebrews 11, we see that Abraham was included in the "Hall of Faith." When God called Abram, he obeyed and left the comforts of his home, livelihood and family. His faith is remarkable, but he isn't the only one in Hebrews 11 that had remarkable faith. All those men and women from the Bible made trusting God look easy. Sometimes that can be discouraging because they seem super human. We look in the mirror, and we see fears and doubts.

When fear looks at the "what-if" of tomorrow, we are overwhelmed. We can't control tomorrow, and things might get worse. So just like David, we long for escape. ([Psalm 55:6](#))

Abram was not born a hero of the faith. When God called Abram, he was worshipping false gods. He had to learn to trust God. As we watch him learn, he will stumble along the way. Here in Genesis 12, we see one of those times.

We don't want to live in fear. How did the heroes of the faith get there? How can we face the unknowns and the "what-ifs" of tomorrow with confidence?

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

1. Self-reliance is not the answer to fear. Vs. 10-16
2. The antidote to fear is the fear of God. Vs. 17-20

## Read & Discuss

### 1) Read 12:10-16

There was a severe famine in the land. God promised to bless Abram, but at this point, Abram may have wondered about that blessing. The text doesn't tell us whether the decision to go to Egypt was the right decision. But nowhere in vs. 10-20 do we see Abram seeking God. He based his decision on what he saw. He was operating by sight, not by faith.

We are good with obeying God when things are going well. But when things are not going well and obedience to God means trial and pain, it is then that we start questioning if God has our good in mind. If we doubt God's goodness, we then feel justified to rely on our own assessment of the situation and our own judgement. ([Proverbs 14:12](#)) What difficult circumstances in your life have left you questioning God and His goodness? Have you ever been tempted to trust your own judgement in a difficult situation? What happened when you did? Trying to control the circumstances that worry us, only creates more problems because we are not addressing the really issue which is fear. What are some of the things that are on your "what-if" list, causing fear in your heart?

Abram was trying to protect God's promise. Here, Abram lied about Sarah – he told a half-truth to keep out of trouble. If you are asked a question that could get you into trouble, how have you been tempted to tell a half truth? We see here that Abram's fear-driven decision backfired. ([Proverbs 20:17](#))

### 2) Read 12:17-20

The way to overcome the fear that grips your heart and paralyzes you is by fearing something greater - God. ([Psalm 118:6](#)) How do we get that kind of confidence?

Getting pushed out into the real world with real problems gets us to trust a real God. Will you trust God with your current concerns and your what-ifs about the future? We need to acknowledge our fear and listen to what our fears are saying of us. We listen to our fears so that fear does not have the final say in our life. Once we know what the fear is saying, we can wrestle with it and look at it in light of God's word. True peace comes when we are able to stare at the threat and say with hope and confidence, "even if it happens, it might be gut-wrenchingly painful, but God is greater." What are your specific fears saying to you?

The ruler of Egypt was not threat to God. ([Proverbs. 21:1](#)) God was greater than Abram's fear. God is greater than our fears. This text is about God and how He is faithful to keep his promise. God is faithful. When He makes a promise, He will keep it. How have you seen God's faithfulness to you over the course of your life?

Moses is writing this for the Israelites because of their circumstances while in Egypt. God delivered Abram. He will deliver the Israelites. God delivers. God keeps His promise. The promise was true for the Israelites, and it is true for us as well. God will not let you go. His heart to bless and take care of you hasn't changed. He is faithful. When we look at the anxious "what-ifs" of the future, it's natural to want to control everything. God does not promise us control of tomorrow. He does not promise that tragedy won't happen. He gives us something better. He promises to be with us. Has there been a difficult circumstance in your life where you can look back and see how God was with you?

It would be great to read this account and never fear again. However, we will stumble and fall as we learn to trust God. This is why we need each other. We need to lean on each other when we are weak and weary. We can pray for, encourage, warn each other, and bring others back to the path of righteousness. Do you have a brother or sister in Christ that you can lean on? How have they helped point you back to the path of righteousness?

**Additional Reading:** Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 23

#### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

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| <b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Genesis 13:1-18</a> "Grace for the Humble" |
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