

WEEK #2 – JOURNEY OF FAITH THROUGH UNCERTAINTY
March 14th – Monday

Centering Breath Prayer: Holy Savior...show me faith in uncertainty.

Opening Prayer:

Beloved Lord, as we enter into this second week of the Lenten season, I open my heart to you for direction. My faith wavers at times and I need your instruction. Though I struggle to understand how faith works in my life, I love you with all of my heart. Make me like Abraham, ready to follow your direction at all times. In your Holy name, I pray. Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

Key Verses: Genesis 12:1, 2a, 3b, 4a: (1) “The Lord said to Abram: ‘Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. (2a) I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (3b) All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you. (4a) Abram went as the Lord directed him” (NAB).

Blind faith is a difficult thing for most of us. We like to at least have some idea of where we are going before we set out. Abram, whom we know better as Abraham, the name the Lord gave him later in life, had no idea where he was going. All he knew was that the Lord said, “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.” Would you pack up your family, lock, stock and barrel, and move out without any idea where you would wind up? And, remember that Abraham was an old man with a barren wife and God was telling him that from them, God would make a great nation and the whole world would be blessed because of him. What a promise! But, even with such a promise, how difficult would it be to follow such a direction? Our faith in the Lord Jesus is both like and unlike Abraham’s. When we chose to follow Jesus, we knew that the end of the journey would take us to God’s heavenly kingdom. What we didn’t, and most of us still don’t, know is how we are going to get there. We follow what we know of the scriptures, searching to find direction for every facet of our lives. We see examples by Jesus and the disciples and men like King David, Moses, Daniel, Joseph (Old and New Testaments), Peter, Paul and John and women of faith like Jesus’ mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, Esther, Ruth and many others, not to mention our faithful example of today, Abraham, to see how we should live. Faith always played a major part of their lives.

We are going to spend this next week as we travel on our journey of love to the cross and beyond exploring faith and how it shapes our spiritual lives, spilling into our everyday existence. Today’s lesson is all about what I call blind faith, that is, doing something without knowing the end result, because we believe in the Lord and know that what God plans for us is far better than what we might plan for ourselves. We live with uncertainty all the time. We don’t know what any day will bring. Sometimes things flow along exactly the way we expect. We arrive where we planned to go safely and with all our expectations met. Other times the unexpected fills our day...or week...or

month! Flat tires, sudden illness, accidents of various types, the death of someone close or encounters with people we didn't expect can turn our world up-side-down. At those times our faith can see us through. Knowing that "*in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose*" (Romans 8:28 NIV), we can be assured that the Lord is with us and will use these unexpected things to work for our good even when we don't understand how or why. Like Abraham, there may come times when we are going in a certain direction, a career, where to live, education, church ministries, etc. when for some reason or another the door seems to shut in our face and we need to move in a new direction. We can be assured that God works through these uncertainties in our lives as well. We may never hear God speak a specific word of direction as Abraham did, but God speaks to us in other ways as we faithfully seek his guidance each day. Sometimes the uncertainty is enormous and we are nearly overwhelmed by our need for direction. At other times our uncertainty is short lived and the situations are not so dire. No matter what our needs, our loving Savior is there and our faith will find him. And that makes the journey one of faith as well as love in the uncertainty of our lives.

Additional Scriptures: Romans 8:28-39

Questions for reflection and/or journaling:

1. When have I felt like I was asked to exercise blind faith?
2. Do I believe that God is always with me when things are uncertain? Why?
3. How can I exercise my faith when the circumstances around me are uncertain?

Suggestions for action:

1. Phrase for your path: **FAITH IN UNCERTAINTY**
2. Write your own definition of faith.
3. Read Hebrews 11:1. If you have more than one translation, you may want to read it in all of them. Compare our definition with the one from the scriptures.
4. Look at some of the times of your life where uncertainty caused you to question what God might want from you. Recall how you felt God's presence or if you did not, look at the results and see where God's hand was in the situation.

Closing Prayer:

Precious Savior, I wish I understood faith better. I often want to believe, but find myself full of doubt. As we look further this week at the nature of faith and learn more about trusting you in all the circumstances of life, open my eyes so that my faith may increase. Show me that although faith may be blind, it is never uncertain. For it is in you that my faith resides and in your name, I pray. Amen.