



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Principle of Spiritual Formation ... by Billy

READ GENESIS 12: 1-17

- **G** In studying the life of Abram we are learning about the principle of spiritual formation – that is, spiritual responses displacing natural tendencies.
- This principle is a major theme in the Bible as we are constantly reminded to put off the old nature and be renewed in the Spirit.
- Notice first that God had called Abram while he was living in Ur of the Chaldeans (Iraq) *Gen.11:31, Gen.12:1, Gen.15:7 and Acts 7:2-4.*
- Here is a picture of the early stages of the Christian journey- when the call of the Gospel enters our hearts and we make that separation from our old way of life.
- Consider some of the challenges of the journey, particularly the requirement for food and water. Abram did not want to repeat his mistake of delayed obedience so he kept on track with God. (see v.6-9).
- **He began to see God's promise unfold before his eyes as he viewed the land of blessing and he receives further confirmation from God.**
- His response is to build an altar of sacrifice and worship to the Lord and to call upon the Name of the Lord.
- This stretch of the journey is symbolic of our early commitment to God when His word to our hearts is kept in sharp focus.
- We live for His promised blessings, provided in the Seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ.
- He communes with our spirit and we offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving to Him often.
- **Then comes the shock and amazement that we could suffer famine in the land of God's blessing (v.10).**
- The whole revelation is questioned – are we really hearing from God?
- **The difficulty arises when we choose a certain course which is not part of God's plan because it leads us further and further away.**
- Abram had to pay a high price for receiving help from Egypt. He had to sell his integrity in exchange for personal security.
- Abram was considering the fruit of his actions and once God provided miraculously for his household, his trust grew deeper.
- This is the wonder of redemption. God intervenes when we are foolish and stubborn.
- **'For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly.'** (*Rom.5:6*).



WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 44

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Sermons available to listen** to on church website www.caec.ie under resources.
- ▶ **Roland Lahousse and his wife Veronique** will be with us this Sunday for morning and evening meetings, 11.00am and 7.00pm. Please invite friends and contacts to the evening meeting as there will be an opportunity for them to respond to the Gospel.
- ▶ **Week of prayer** will begin *Sunday 25th November @ 7.00pm* and will continue *Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday* at the same time.
- ▶ **Carol service** will take place on *Sunday 16th December @ 7.00pm* (to be confirmed).

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).