

Walking With God Without Fanfare

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. **—Hebrews 11:5, NAS**

Passing the Point of No Return

Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever.” **—Genesis 6:3**

Coping With Stubbornness

If someone is caught in sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. **—Galatians 6:1**

Jesus Never Manipulates Anyone

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" ... Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. —**Genesis 25:29-33**

The Key to Spiritual Greatness

"By **faith** Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb. 11:8, NASB).

We may refer to God's revealing Himself to Abraham as Abraham's "**calling**." Our verse says, "By faith Abraham, when he was called ... " All greatness may be traced to one's calling, and so with Abraham.

One interesting thing about the call to Abraham was the **promise** of greatness. God said to Abraham, "I'm going to make you a great name." (See Genesis 12:2.) And yet the very thing that made God angry with regard to the Tower of Babel was that people were going to make a name for themselves. Is there a contradiction?

God is not against greatness—as long as He is the architect of

it. He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5). But if we are thinking of making ourselves great and building a name for ourselves, we will be fighting against God. One of the most common temptations for a Christian, especially if he is involved in **Christian** service, is to think he must build up a certain image—or build up his name, as one would do in show business.

The parallel between show business people and some Christians in the Lord's work is one of the most ominous signs of 21-century Christianity. God promised to make Abraham a great name, but not before Abraham was ready. Indeed, Abraham had much to go through before he was ready.

As you read these lines, God may be calling you to **greatness**. You may think you are the most **insignificant** person on earth. But God delights in making men great—provided that He is the One doing it. He created all things “out of nothing” and continues to make men great who hold no promise whatsoever.

Excerpted from Believing God (MorningStar Publications & Ministries, 1997).

God Has a Purpose for You

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —**Jeremiah 29:11**

Worship That Pleases God

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **—Psalm 29:2, KJV**

God Wants Us to Pray

Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. **—Genesis 25:21**

Worship in Heaven

Behold, I make all things new. **—Revelation 21:5, KJV**

Leaving Everything Behind

Anne Graham Lotz speaks about the story of Abraham and how it has influenced her life. Watch to find out what she left behind and why. What is God calling you to give up so you can serve and follow Him in a life of faith?

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