

Possess the Land

Echo Church | Week 9 | March 1, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

Genesis 12:1-5 (NKJV)

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1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

Introduction: God has a promise for each of us. Just like Abram, we are called to leave behind the familiar, the comfortable, the controllable, and step into His incomprehensible plans. But possessing the land—stepping into that calling—requires a shift in our thinking, in our trust, and in our obedience. The land is there, but you've got to walk into it!

Point 1: "We Don't Respond to Strangers; We Keep Walking"

Genesis 12:1 - "Now the Lord had said to Abram..."

- **The Word has already spoken:** God gave Abram a clear directive. Fear, uncertainty, and doubt are strangers. They weren't sent by God, so why are we having conversations with them?
- **Recognize the stranger's voice:** You know when fear creeps in and says, "You don't have what it takes"? That's not God. Jesus said His sheep know His voice (John 10:4-5), and they don't follow strangers. Keep walking when fear calls your name.
- **Practical Application:** Write down what God has spoken over your life. Anytime the 'stranger' whispers lies contrary to His Word, declare out loud what you know to be true.

Illustration: Abram could have stopped and questioned every uncertainty—"What land, God? Which direction should I go?"—but he didn't. He kept moving. Sometimes, the greatest act of faith is refusing to stop when fear tells you to.

Point 2: "Your Earth vs His Earth"

Genesis 12:2-3 - "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you..."

- **Living for the flesh vs. living for the Spirit:** Our earth (flesh) wants comfort, control, and clarity. His earth (Spirit) calls us to sacrifice, surrender, and submission. Which one are you walking in?
- **God's promises come with His way:** Abram had to pack up and leave everything he'd built (his earth) to receive what God had promised (His earth). God is calling us higher, but we can't bring old patterns of serving ourselves with us.

- **Practical Application:** Identify one area where you've been prioritizing your own comfort over God's calling. Repent and submit that area to Him.

Illustration: Think about the rich young ruler (Mark 10). He wanted to possess eternal life but couldn't part ways with his "land" (his wealth and possessions). Don't miss the promise because you're clinging to your version of comfort.

Point 3: "One Step at a Time"

Genesis 12:4 - "Then Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him..."

- **God didn't tell Abram everything upfront:** He said, "Go to a land that I will show you." Key word—"will." Sometimes God doesn't give us step two because He's waiting for us to respond to step one.
- **Faith is a daily walk:** Possessing the land isn't about leaping; it's about consistency. Each day, you're one obedient step closer to the promise.
- **Practical Application:** Stop trying to figure out ten steps ahead. Just take the next faithful step. For Abram, that first step was leaving Haran. What's your Haran?

Illustration: GPS only gives you the next turn when you get close. If you're sitting still, it won't tell you anything. Faith operates the same way—God only reveals what's next when you start moving.

Point 4: "The Promise Requires Perseverance"

Genesis 12:5 - "They departed to go to the land of Canaan; so they came to the land of Canaan."

- **It's not always easy, but it's worth it:** Abram faced challenges as he followed the call. Leaving Haran wasn't convenient, yet he persevered and arrived.
- **The promise is bigger than you:** This wasn't just about Abram. It was about the generations that would come through him. Sometimes, we grow weary because we forget the land we're possessing isn't just for us—it's for those coming after us.
- **Practical Application:** When you feel tired, remember that your obedience is laying a foundation for the next generation. Keep going for your children, for your grandchildren, and for the ones who will step into their callings because you obeyed.

Illustration: Think about runners handing off the baton in a relay race. You can't stop running before the next runner. Perseverance is your handoff of faith to the next generation.

Closing Challenge:

God is calling you to possess the land. Will you leave behind fear and doubt? Will you prioritize His plan over your comfort? Will you take faith-filled steps toward the unknown? Will you worship along the way and persevere until the promise is fulfilled? Abram obeyed, and through him, nations were blessed. What blessings will your obedience unlock?

Key Takeaway: Possessing the land isn't just about stepping into promises—it's about trusting the Promise-Giver. Keep walking. Keep trusting. Build your altar. Don't stop short. The land is yours to possess.