



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

JANUARY 9, 2021

When Abraham put God First

Putting God first can be difficult. What can we learn from Abraham that will help us put God first in our lives today?

Abram was 80 years old when he left his rich and prosperous home to travel into the desert. God had called him, and Abram put God first. But, a few years later, Abram began to lie to save his own life.

Why did Abram become so fearful that he stopped putting God first? Time happened.

Did you have a time in your life when you would have dropped everything to follow Jesus? Many of us have done exactly that on multiple occasions. But then time passes, and our faithfulness turns into routine. Life happens and we start leaving God in second place or worse.

Some of us become disappointed with God because our lives didn't turn out as we expected. Did you achieve everything you aimed for last year? Probably not. It is easy to fall back into our own desires and fears.

Abram had the courage to challenge God and demand His promises be fulfilled. After all, Abram was promised a land and descendants. However, in Genesis 15, Abram challenges God directly:

"Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Sometimes we need to have some serious conversations with God. Do not continue in silence if you have a few things to say to your heavenly Father. Are you disappointed? Tell Him. Do you feel alone when He promised to be with you? Challenge Him like Abram did.

So God invited Abram to leave his tent and come outside. It is almost as if God is taking Abram from his limited reality and bringing him to God's reality. God says to Abram, "Your tent ceiling isn't large enough to accommodate what I can do." God reminds Abram that God is God, and Abram is not.

It is precisely because Abram put God first that his name was changed to Abraham. And his desire to be faithful led to the first biblical reference to tithing.

Abraham put God first. His example compels us to do the same. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.