

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

September 8, 2013 Genesis 12:1-4 by Bob Branch
Blessed To Be A Blessing, Part 1

MAIN IDEA: You were designed for a life of impact *for God* to others. In Christ, you've been blessed to be a blessing. You've been brought into something much bigger than yourself which involves a change of mindset.

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."
Genesis 12:1

God calls.

² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
Genesis 12:2-3

God Promised.

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him... Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **Genesis 12:4**

Abram went.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." **Hebrews 11:8**

¹**God's call to follow him, ²his promise of blessing, and ³his call to trust him and respond in obedience.**

1. **The primary and greatest fulfillment of God's blessing-promise to Abram is JESUS HIMSELF.**

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. **Galatians 3:14** (3:8, 16; Isaiah 9:7)

2. **Abram was blessed to be a blessing, which was fulfilled in Israel is a people, which was fulfilled ultimately in Jesus, but then was passed on to us. We have been BLESSED to be a BLESSING.**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." **Eph. 1:3**

Bring heaven's KINGDOM to earth.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Isaiah 61:1-2)
... He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." **Luke 4:18-19, 21**

For the BENEFIT of others...

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **Philippians 2:3-4** (Rom. 12:10)

3. **You enter into the blessing-cycle through SIMPLE FAITH STEPS.**

...through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." **Genesis 22:18**

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'... 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' **Matthew 25:35-36, 40**