

WHAT'S NEXT?

When God Doesn't Tell You What's Next

#2 In the “What’s Next” Series When God Doesn’t Tell You What’s Next

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Most of us are comfortable following God—as long as He tells us where we’re going.

- We don’t mind obedience when there’s a clear plan.
- A timeline.
- A sense of how things will work out.

But trouble comes when God asks us to move *before* we know the destination.

- When the door opens, but the details don’t.
- When the call is clear, but the outcome isn’t.
- When faith requires a step—and all we have is a promise.

That’s where many of us find ourselves today.

- Standing between what we know and what we don’t.
- Between what feels safe and what feels faithful.
- Between waiting for clarity and responding to God’s voice.

And into that tension, Scripture introduces us to a man named Abram.

God’s call to Abram in Genesis 12 doesn’t come with a map, a schedule, or a safety net.

It comes with two simple words: “**Go... and I will show you.**”

- No explanation.
- No guarantees.

- Just a call—and a promise.

Abram's story isn't just ancient history.
It's a mirror.

Because the question he faced is the same one we face today:

- Not “*Do I understand where this leads?*”
- But “*Do I trust the One who is leading me?*”

And that question sits at the heart of faith.

Genesis 12:1–4

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

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

I. Abram's Unanswered Questions

God's call to Abram in Genesis 12 is striking—not just for what it promises, but for what it *doesn't* include.

- There's no destination map.
- No timeline.
- No step-by-step explanation of how the promise will unfold.

God simply says, “*Go... and I will show you.*”

That phrase alone requires faith.

Abram is asked to leave everything that gave him identity and security:

- His country

- His people
- His familiar patterns of life

This wasn't just a change of address—it was a complete reorientation of life.

- God wasn't asking Abram to add something new to his schedule.
- He was asking him to *rebuild his life around trust.*

And in exchange, Abram is given a **promise—but not a plan.**

God calls Abram **before** Abram knows where obedience will lead.

- Before the details are filled in.
- Before the outcomes are guaranteed.

That's often how God works.

Most of us want God to clarify the future before we commit to obedience. We want faith to come with fine print.

- We want the job offer before we trust.
- We want the relationship outcome before we obey.
- We want assurance before surrender.

But Scripture shows us a consistent pattern:
clarity often comes after faith, not before it.

- God begins with a call, not an explanation.
- With a direction, not a destination.
- With a promise, not a blueprint.

That doesn't mean God is withholding or distant.

It means He is inviting us into a relationship built on trust rather than control.

Hebrews 10:23

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

God rarely answers all our questions.

But He always gives **enough truth for the next step**.

And the question Abram faced—and the question we face—is not,

“Do I understand where this leads?”

but,

“Do I trust the One who is leading me?”

Because faith doesn't wait for all the answers.

Faith responds to the voice of God—one obedient step at a time.

God rarely answers all our questions—but He always gives enough truth to take the next step.

II. The Tension of Faith and Uncertainty

Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance. And he went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

That verse is honest in a way we often overlook.

- Hebrews doesn't say Abraham felt confident.
- It doesn't say he had peace about every detail.
- It doesn't say he understood how it would all work out.

It says **he obeyed**.

Faith, by its very nature, lives in tension— between what we know and what we don't.

Abraham knew who was calling him.

- He did not know where the path would lead.

- And Scripture presents that not as a flaw in his faith, but as the very definition of it.

We often want certainty because certainty gives us a sense of control.

- If we know the outcome, we feel safer.
- If we can see the whole plan, we feel justified in moving forward.

But God invites something deeper than control.

He invites **trust**.

And trust only grows where certainty ends.

That's why obedience so often comes **before** understanding.

Not because God enjoys keeping us in the dark,
but because He is forming a relationship that isn't built on explanations alone.

God is not withholding information to frustrate us.

He is shaping hearts that learn to rely on Him rather than outcomes.

Faith doesn't ask, "Do I have all the answers?"

Faith asks, "Do I trust the One who is calling me?"

And that leads us to some honest questions we all have to face:

- Where am I waiting for certainty instead of choosing faith?
- What step of obedience am I postponing because I don't yet have all the answers?
- What would it look like to trust God before the picture becomes clear?

Faith doesn't eliminate uncertainty.

It teaches us how to live faithfully within it.

Because in the end, God is less concerned with explaining what's next and far more interested in shaping **who you trust as you move forward**.

And when faith is formed in uncertainty, it becomes strong enough to hold—no matter where the road leads.

III. Steps, Not Blueprints

God doesn't lead Abram all at once—He leads him **one step at a time**.

As Abram journeys through the land, something meaningful keeps happening.

- At each place he stops, he builds an altar.
- Not because he's arrived—but because **God met him there**.

Those altars become markers along the way—reminders that God's presence isn't reserved for the destination.

- God meets Abram **in the movement, in the obedience, in the temporary places**.

That's often how God works with us.

It's like driving at night.

- Your headlights don't show you the entire road—only the next few feet ahead.
- But that limited light is enough to keep you moving forward.

God rarely illuminates the whole future.

Instead, He provides:

- enough light for **today**,
- enough grace for **this step**,
- enough direction to **obey now**.

Scripture captures this beautifully:

Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Notice the language—*a lamp for your feet*, not a spotlight for the horizon. God's guidance is often practical, immediate, and personal.

That's why **daily faithfulness matters more than long-term clarity**.

Faithfulness looks ordinary most of the time:

- faithfulness in today's conversations,
- faithfulness in today's responsibilities,
- faithfulness in today's obedience—especially when no one else sees it.

We often underestimate what God can do with small, faithful steps. But Scripture shows us that God builds futures **one obedient day at a time**.

Abram didn't know how the promise would unfold. He simply trusted God enough to take the next step—and then the next.

And in the same way, God is still shaping lives, families, callings, and futures through **faithful days that don't feel dramatic, but are deeply formative**.

- God doesn't rush the process.
- He walks with us through it.

And as we stay faithful today, we discover that God is already at work—building tomorrow through obedience right now.

God gives direction one step at a time so we learn dependence, not control.

IV. Learning to Walk by Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Walking by faith doesn't mean closing our eyes and hoping for the best.

- Biblical faith is not reckless risk-taking—it is **relational trust**.
- It's choosing to move forward because we know *who* is leading us,
- Even when we don't know *where* the path is heading.

Scripture reminds us:

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

Faith isn't built on full understanding—it's built on full dependence.

Abram didn't leave home because the plan felt safe or the destination was clear.

He stepped out because the **God who called him was trustworthy**.

God reveals more as we move.

- He rarely gives the whole map at once.
- Instead, He gives enough light for the next step.

What Walking by Faith Often Requires

- **Take the step you already know God is asking you to take.**
“If you are willing and obedient...” (Isaiah 1:19)
- **Release the pressure to see the entire picture before obeying.**
God never promised full visibility—He promised His presence.
“My presence will go with you.” (Exodus 33:14)
- **Trust that God is patient, present, and faithful as you move forward.**
“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Psalm 103:8)

Faith isn't about mastering the route.

It's about staying close to the Guide.

Psalm 37:23

"The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in His way."

And when we walk by faith—step by step, day by day—we discover that God is already at work ahead of us, preparing the way.

Faith isn't knowing the whole path—it's trusting the Guide.

Conclusion:

By the end of Abram's journey, one thing becomes clear:

God never gave him the whole path, but He never left him alone on it.

- Every step Abram took was marked by God's presence.
- Many pauses became an altar.
- Every uncertain place became a meeting place with God.

And slowly—over time, through obedience—what began as a promise became a future.

That's how faith works.

- God doesn't give us blueprints so we can stay in control.
- He gives us steps so we can learn to trust.
- Faith isn't knowing where the road ends.
- It's trusting the Guide who walks it with us.

Some of you are standing at a crossroads right now.

You know God is calling—but you don't know what comes next.

And the invitation of this story is not to wait until everything is clear.
It's to take the next faithful step.

Because God rarely answers all our questions.
But He always gives enough truth for today.

- Enough light for this step.
- Enough grace for this moment.
- Enough presence to keep moving forward.

Faith doesn't wait for the whole path to be revealed.
Faith responds to the voice of God—one obedient step at a time.

And when we do, we discover what Abram learned long ago:

**Faith isn't knowing the whole path.
It's trusting the Guide.**