

## Answering God's Call

**Text: Genesis 12:1–9**

### Introduction

The importance of the call of God on a life has not diminished over the years.

1. The definition of calling.
  - a. An invitation to service.
  - b. A summons to service.
2. The application of calling.
  - a. In general — to a trade, occupation, or profession.
  - b. In particular — to the Christian ministry.

### Scriptural Background

Abram was past his prime (75 years old).

Abram was prosperous (owned livestock and servants).

Abram was planted (settled down).

Abram was pagan (an idolater).

### Proposition

Individual believers can answer the call of God on their lives.

### Thesis Statement

By these actions, individual believers can appropriately answer the call of God on their lives.

### Message

#### 1. By perceiving God's pronouncement (Genesis 12:1–3). "The Lord had said to Abram."

- a. The personality of God (Genesis 12:1). "The Lord."
- b. The promise of God (Genesis 12:2). "I will make you into a great nation."
- c. The protection of God (Genesis 12:3). "Whoever curses you I will curse."  
**Illustration:** Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:9–11).
- d. The purpose of God (Genesis 12:3). "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

#### 2. By performing God's precept (12:4,5). "So Abram left."

- a. The issue of partial obedience (Genesis 12:4). "As the Lord had told him" (compare Genesis 11:31). "Together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there."
- b. The intimidation of physical age (Genesis 12:4). "Abram was 75 years old."
- c. The inclusion of family obligations (Genesis 12:5). "He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot." (He left his country, his kindred and his father's house.)  
**Illustration:** Peter and his wife traveled together in ministry (1 Corinthians 9:5).
- d. The imperfection of all believers (Genesis 12:5). "The people they had acquired" (slavery). (Compare Genesis 12:10–20; "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?")

#### 3. By personalizing God's promise (Genesis 12:6,7). "The Lord appeared to Abram and said ..."

- a. The likelihood of unfavorable circumstances (Genesis 12:6). "At that time the Canaanites were in the land."  
**Illustration:** The aftermath of Jesus' baptism in water (Mark 1:12,13).
- b. The need for spiritual confirmation (Genesis 12:7). "The Lord appeared to Abram (again because of the Canaanites in the land)."
- c. The determination of unique contributions (Genesis 12:7). "To your offspring I will give this land."
- d. The response of thorough consecration (Genesis 12:7). "So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him."  
**Illustration:** Husbands should not continually justify moving their families by saying God told them to do it. (This was an unique experience for one individual.)

**4. By practicing God's presence (Genesis 12:8,9). "He built an altar to the Lord."**

1. The walk of faith (Genesis 12:8). "From there he went on" (Hebrews 11:8–10). "By faith Abraham ... obeyed and went" (compare Romans 4:20, 21).
2. The need for renewal (Genesis 12:8). "There he built an altar to the Lord" (beside his tent was always an altar).
3. The dependence on God (Genesis 12:8). "And called on the name of the Lord" (prayed or preached).
4. The faithfulness in every day life (Genesis 12:9). "Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev" (compare Luke 9:23).

**Illustration:** To some God says, "Come!" (Levi). To others, "Stay!" (Legion; Mark 2:13,14; 5:18–20).

**Conclusion**

Believers should answer the call of God on their lives.

1. The greater the word (promise), the more faith required (Genesis 12:1–3).
2. The greater the walk (sacrifice), the more obedience required (Genesis 12:4,5).
3. The greater the wait (time), the more patience required (Genesis 12:6,7).
4. The greater the work (responsibility), the more encouragement required (Genesis 12:8,9).

**Steve D. Eutsler**, Springfield, Missouri