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.”
   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).

   **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).

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