

2013.09.29 Learning From Failure

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Fallen Giants: Lessons From Failure Learning From Failure

(Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19) 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. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

1. Requires learning (_____)

A. Hebrews was written to correct (_____)

B. Hebrews was written to encourage those (_____)

2. Requires (_____) in Scripture

A. (_____) is where everyone begins

(Genesis 11:31) Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

B. (_____) is the easiest expression of fear

(Genesis 12:10-13) Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the

Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

C. Sincere doubt and sincere faith stand in (——)

(Genesis 15:1-6) After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring[d] be."

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

D. (——) and (——) pose the greatest threat to faith

(Genesis 16:1-2) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

E. Great faith doesn't automatically translate into great (——)

(Genesis 20:1-2) Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

F. Faith has (——) when (——) matters more

(Genesis 22:1-2) Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

(9.29.2013)

Connect Group Questions

Fallen Giants: Learning From Failure

Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19

1. Abraham is known by his faith more than anything else...even his failures. Abraham's story is retold all throughout scripture but is grounded in Genesis chapters 12-25. As the patriarch of God's chosen people, which failure of his do you find the most surprising?

2. Just like Noah last week, Abram gets some unique instructions in Genesis 12:1. How do you think these marching orders might have tested Abram?

3. "Fear is the opposite of faith." Do you agree? If not, do you think Abraham demonstrated faith in Genesis 12:10-13 & 20:1-2?

4. Read Genesis 16, this is one part of Abraham's story we don't learn about in Sunday School. What can we learn from this account about trusting God's timing? What do we learn about the repercussions of our own sin?

5. This week we learned the principle, Faith has matured when nothing else matters more. Read Genesis 22:1-19 and Hebrews 11:17-19, how was this principle now evident in Abraham's life? How is it evident in yours?