



Sermon Title: FRESH START

Text: Genesis 12:1-9

“A blessed life is not measured merely by what we possess; it is found in living in right relationship with God, delighting in His will, and becoming a channel of His goodness to others.”

As we step into this new year, we gather under the theme **“Faithful”**—a reminder that our ability to remain steadfast is rooted entirely in the character of our faithful God. To begin this journey, we are launching our new sermon series, *“Embracing a New Beginning,”* by looking at the life of Abram in Genesis 12.

As we seek a “Fresh Start,” many of us pray for the Lord to bless us. However, biblical blessing is far more than material prosperity or comfort. From the Hebrew root *“bārak”*, true blessing is about living in a right relationship with God, delighting in His will, and becoming a conduit of His goodness to others. Let us now explore how beholding God's plan is the first step toward experiencing His true favour and fruitfulness this year.

BEHOLD GOD’S PLAN (LOOK UP).

As the holiday festivities fade, it is easy to slip into a “back to reality” mindset, assuming 2026 will simply be a repeat of the same routines and limitations. We often believe our lives are pre-determined by our status or obstacles, but we must remember that God’s plan is not limited by our “reality.”

Consider Abram in Genesis 11. On paper, he appeared insignificant—his wife was barren, and his family line seemed destined to continue

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through Lot instead of him. By all earthly standards, Abram was at a dead end. Yet, God intervened in chapter 12 with a promise to make him a “great nation.” God was writing his story, turning an impossible scenario into a divine trajectory. This is a reminder to approach the upcoming year with anticipation and faith rather than pessimism or a sense of stagnation. It is important to recognize that, irrespective of one's current situation, God has a purposeful plan for our lives to thrive and make an impact.

LEAP IN FAITH (STEP OUT).

The second step toward a fresh start is taking a leap of faith. For Abram, this was a massive sacrifice. He was called to leave the city of Ur—a place of stability, wealth, and family protection—to head toward a destination God had not revealed yet. God’s invitation was simple but costly: *Give up your comfort and follow Me.*

In Scripture, we see that growth rarely happens in “safe” places: Joseph was refined through trials, not ease. David fell when he became too comfortable. The Disciples and Paul thrived in unfamiliar and challenging territories. True obedience often costs us our comfort. Whether God is calling you to step into a new ministry, lead a Bible study, or let go of a personal goal to embrace His, you cannot experience His divine destiny while staying where it is safe. To experience the fullness of God's blessing this year, you must be willing to step out and trust His leading, even when the destination isn't yet clear.

END THE DELAY (MOVE ON).

While we often view Abram as a model of instant obedience, his journey included a significant season of delay. When he left Ur, he

stopped and settled in Haran—a city that was geographically halfway to the Promised Land. Haran was a place of familiarity and comfort, representing a “halfway point” in his obedience. Abram remained in this crossroads until he was seventy-five years old. It was only after a season of testing and a reminder of God's promise that he finally moved forward into the fullness of his calling.

In 2026, you may encounter your own “Haran”—a place where you are tempted to settle for partial obedience because it is comfortable or familiar. Whether you are distracted by attachments or discouraged by the length of the journey, do not let your "halfway" become your "final destination." Trust in God's patience and let His promises propel you to end the delay and move forward into everything He has prepared for you.

SPIRITUALLY GROW (DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP).

Throughout his journey, Abram’s progress was marked by a constant rhythm: God spoke, and Abram responded. From the initial call in Genesis 12 to the expanded promises in chapter 13, Abram consistently built altars (*Mizbeach*) to the Lord. These were not just stone structures; they were places of sacrifice, worship, and communion. As he moved from place to place, his relationship with God deepened because he prioritized the “altar”. He did not just receive God’s Word; he lived in a state of constant response to it.

To stay strong and committed, you must protect your "altar"—your personal time of prayer and feasting on the Word. Today, we do not need physical stones; our very lives are the altar. Do not rush so fast through the year that you neglect communion with the Lord. Whether you are at work, at home, or in the ministry, every moment is an opportunity to worship and deepen your fellowship with God.

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SERVE OTHERS (BE A BLESSING).


The final purpose of God’s blessing in Abram's life was not for personal privilege, but for a missional purpose. God’s promise in Genesis 12:2-3 is clear: Abram was blessed to be a blessing to “*all the families of the earth.*” This promise finds its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus Christ, the descendant of Abraham, who brings salvation to every nation.

As we receive God's favour in 2026, we must remember that our blessings come with a responsibility. We are not meant to be reservoirs that store up God's goodness, but channels that let it flow to others.

God blesses you so that you can bless others. While we can provide care, love, and support to those around us, the greatest blessing we can ever offer is to point people toward Jesus.

 **Ponder:** Am I prioritizing our “altar”? We often spend our energy with many things while neglecting the “altar” (our communion and sacrifice to God).

 **Practical Application:** Be a conduit, not a reservoir. This week, identify one person in your “circle of reality” who needs encouragement. Do not just pray for them in private—actively reach out to serve them or share a word about Jesus, turning God’s favor into a tangible blessing for someone else.

 **Prayer:** Lord, give me the courage to leave my “Haran” and my comfort zone. I pray that in 2026, I will not settle for partial obedience or a “back to reality” mindset but instead follow Your voice into the divine trajectory You have written for me. Amen!

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