

# Move to the Next Chapter

## Genesis 11:31-12:4

### I. Introduction

#### A. Defining Life

1. James defines life as a *vapor* that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.
2. Moses defines life as a *tale* or *story* that is told. Everyone likes a good story. If our lives are stories then you are sitting next to a best seller.
3. You don't have to go on Oprah's show to push your book because you are a living breathing story. People will read your life before they read another book.

#### B. Divided Stories

1. Stories are divided into chapters.
2. Not every chapter in our story is pleasant, pleasing or peaceful.
3. Some of our chapters are very sad. Some chapters contain seasons of suffering, times of turmoil, and periods of pain.
4. Don't look at folk funny when they shout because you don't know what chapter of life they are in.

#### C. Difficult Chapters

1. You see all of us will experience the difficult chapters of life. David, Job and Jesus had to experience the difficult chapters of life.
2. Difficult chapters can include the death of a loved one, loss of finances or poor health.
3. Difficult chapters are not all bad because they cause us to call on the Lord. It took a difficult chapter to humble us. It was a difficult chapter that taught us that God was still in charge.
4. Good chapters can be very dangerous because we become complacent. Our relationship with God becomes too casual.
5. So our text picks up with God commanding Abraham to move to the next chapter of his life.
6. Remember that no matter where you are in life today God has another chapter for you.

### II. Call to Move to the Next Chapter

#### A. Specific Call

1. How did Abraham know that it was time to move literally and spiritually in his life? God placed a *specific call* on his life.
2. Callings can be general or specific in nature. A general call goes to all believers. General callings include being part of a local church, serving in ministry and worship.
3. But this call was to a particular person, at a particular time to do something specific. Stop trying to walk in another person's calling because it will not fit.

## **B. Simple Call**

1. The command was simple and straight forward. Abraham was to leave Haran and follow God's voice.
2. The problem with following God is not that his commands are *complex* but they *challenge* our faith.
3. For example, we struggle with the command to tithe not because of its complexity. We can do the math. But it challenges our faith.

## **C. Secured by a Promise**

1. God commanded Abraham to move but promised to bless him.
2. Only a gracious God will reward you for obeying Him.

# **III. Challenges to Moving to the Next Chapter**

## **A. From a Family of Failures**

1. The text stated that Terah (the father of Abraham) and his family left Ur headed for Canaan but they settled in Haran where Terah died.
2. Terah never made it to Canaan and a matter of fact, Haran is only a two days journey from Ur.
3. One of Abraham's greatest challenges was that he came from a family of failures.
4. It is difficult to move to another level in God when there are no role models or mentors to help us.

## **B. Leave the Familiar**

1. The call commanded that Abraham leave his family and country.
2. It is a challenge to leave familiar *people* and *places* and go where God leads us.
3. Human nature dictates that we stay in familiar territory even when it's uncomfortable. That is why people stay in bad relationships.

## **C. Forsake the Comfortable**

1. Abraham was very comfortable during this chapter of his life. He was 75 years old (age) and had some wealth (abundance).
2. It is hard to move to the next chapter when we are comfortable. We don't want to move when we have a comfortable job, comfortable home and comfortable car.
3. It is easier to move to the next chapter when we are uncomfortable.

**Illustration:** A baby stays in his mother's womb until it becomes cramped and uncomfortable then he is born. If the baby stays in the womb too long he will regress and die.

# **IV. The Commitment to Move (v 10-11)**

## **A. Attitude**

1. Abraham displayed an attitude of acceptance. He did not argue with God or give any excuses.

## B. Action

1. Abraham moved without hesitation to the place that God had commanded.
2. He is known as the “father of faith” and God blessed Abraham with more than he could ever imagine.
3. God increased his wealth. God gave him a son. God blessed his name.

## V. Conclusion

**Based on the attitudes and actions of Abraham we should be ready to move to the next chapter.**

1. Stand to your feet.
2. Take your neighbor by the hands.
3. And say *“I am ready to move to the next chapter.”*
4. Then just move...to the next chapter in your life.

***This next chapter may be –***

- **Better job**
- **Better marriage**
- **More ministry**
- **More money**
- **Better health**
- **Bigger house**
- **A nicer car**

I don't think you are ready for your next chapter. If you were ready you would show it.

Last week Camille was trying to feed my grandson some baby food but she was feeding him too fast. I told her to slow down. She said, “How do I know when he is ready for some more?” I told her to just watch the baby and he will tell you when he is ready. She would give him a spoon full of baby food and wait. When the baby was ready, he would open his mouth and say “ahh”. The Spirit spoke to me that is how God knows that we are ready for our next blessing when we open our mouths in praise.

So just open your mouth and say **“ahhhh”**. I am ready for my promotion.

Ready for my **healing**

Ready for my **deliverance**

Ready for my **prosperity**

Ready for my **ministry** to take off

Ready for my **children** to be blessed

Ready for my **peace**

Ready for my **joy**