

[GUARDRAILS]

Week 1: Guardrails for Life

(ANSWERS)

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life" (Proverbs 4:23 NLT)

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Pastor Sheryl Brady

Key Text: Genesis 12:1-20; 13:1-4

I. **Abram's Character** (Genesis 12:1-6)

"And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God" (James 2:23 NLT).

- Abram, the man God called His friend, was first an intercessor. He was also a man of . . .
 - faith.
 - conviction.
 - wealth.
 - promise.
 - principles.
- What made Abram a great man is he had an **altar**.

II. **Abram's Altar** (Genesis 12:7-8)

"GOD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your children." Abram built an altar at the place GOD had appeared to him. He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent between Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there and prayed to God" (Genesis 12:7-8 MSG).

- Every step of real advancement will always involve an altar.
- An altar is a place where:
 - **sacrifices** are made.
 - **you** touch God.
 - **change** occurs in you.
 - **God** touches you.
 - you **humble** yourself.
- An altar is a place exclusively set aside to commune with God.
- An altar is not only a physical place but a place in your heart, an inner sanctuary, reserved for God. Only God has access.

III. **Your Altar** (Psalm 50:15; 25:1)

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15 NKJV).

- Your prayer life is your altar and a guardrail.
- Nothing **alters** you like your prayer life. Prayer keeps you and stabilizes you.

- Through **prayer**, an altar is a place where God gives:

1. Answers
2. Strategies
3. Counsel
4. Strength
5. Direction
6. Hope

IV. Abram Drifts (Genesis 12:9-14; Isaiah 31:1; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

"Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land" (Genesis 12:10 NKJV).

- The famine in the land causes Abram to go **down** to Egypt. The famine pushes Abram out of safety and moves him away from his altar.
- Abram finds himself overwhelmed by his environment and begins telling **half - truths**. One sin leads to another.
- Going down to Egypt jeopardizes Abram's future, his assignment, and his wife. What He picks up becomes a distraction and almost destroys his **ministry** and his **marriage**.
- Abram, the man of **faith**, starts acting like a man of **fear**.
- No matter what's happening around you, God will **keep** you in it.
- Ignoring boundaries and guardrails in our lives affects not only you but **everyone** connected to you.
- God will **speak** up for you when others don't.

V. Abram's Recourse (Genesis 13:1-4; Psalm 51:10-12)

- Abram loses his character, courage, conviction, and his faith, because he lost his altar.
- Abram's only recourse is to retrace his steps.
 1. **Retrace** steps.
 2. **Acknowledge** mistakes.
 3. **Accept** responsibility for mistakes.
 4. **Decide** to come out of Egypt.
 5. **Rebuild** altar.
- Whenever you hit a **guardrail**, you want to correct your course without going over the edge.