

June 2010

In Genesis 12:7 The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

God gave Abraham a promise of greatness and significance, that He was going to do something with Abraham's life that would bring him to an appointed destiny. "Get out of your country... to the land that I will show you.... I will bless you and make your name great: and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those that bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 12:1-3

God tell us in Romans chapter 4 that we are the offspring of Abraham, so the promise of significance and destiny to you and me is the same. Like Abraham; we've been called to come and follow Him and when we do, He promises to transform our lives progressively into His likeness and image that He intended us to be. What are men seeing when they look at you? He seeks our devotion and commitment to enter into fellowship with Him on a daily basis. That's when He'll bless us and fill us to overflowing with blessing so we can be that light in the darkness to others. How does He accomplish this? By meeting us where we worship.

Abraham made his moves on the basis of his personal encounters with God, and he put up an altar at each site as a monument to something the Lord spoke into or was doing in his life. These were testaments to worship – filled encounters with the power and presence of the most Holy Lord.

I've been involved with worship for several years now, both as a worshiper and as a worship leader. There is an intimacy that comes from worship that is different than the "let's fire 'em up" with hoots and hollers that we get in praise. Praise should be easy. Men come to the church service all the time and shout "hallelujah" or "praise the Lord" yet never change. You know why? Because praise is easy, Jesus said the rocks could do it in Luke 19. I know many who don't have a relationship with Jesus, yet they can praise. I've stood next to musicians in the church, that if they had a choice between a secular song or a worship song, they'd choose the secular because that's what they've let "move" their spirit all of their lives. You see true worship takes relationship. I must say it's evident in the lives of those that do make worship a part of their daily lives and those that don't. Which one are you? Whenever we gather to worship in spirit and in truth, we should be expecting His presence for ministry to take place. Hope rises, joy abounds, tears of thankfulness and repentance flow, hearts are touched and melted. His grace and love is poured out. This encounter is the manifestation of the glory of the Lord responding to our heartfelt, passionate worship of Him. But this can happen wherever we dwell. Right in our cubicles or our cells. We can build a house of worship where we live. I know it seems hard to be able to worship in Ad-Seg or a dirty cell or dorm, but like Abraham, we should worship and welcome God into our situation. Worship Him. Make where you are an outpost of righteousness in the midst of a crooked and perverse place. Abraham renewed the altar he had built in Genesis 13:3-4. Perhaps you need to renew yours. Rekindle the flame of His presence. What commitments have we made that need to be renewed? Believe God and trust Him to give you what He has promised. In verses 14-18, the Lord showed Abraham a place, made him a promise and told him to take action: "walk the land". Abraham responded by worshiping. The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. Will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if

one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord. Genesis 13:14-18 ESV

That altar that Abraham built and worshipped at moved him another step toward possessing his destiny. We have a right to walk the land where we are at and claim our families, our people, our units to be under the dominion and blessing of God and His Kingdom. Who is this God that we worship? He is the God that sent His son. When the grave opens He stands nearby. He calls wanderers home. He rescues souls from the depths. He serves one as He serves the other, He serves one as He serves ALL. He speaks through the birds of the air and the insects of the field, the crash of waters on the rock ripped shores. The sighing of the winds in the trees and He is heard by the souls that rejects the pleas of great speakers and the rebellious ones who refuse the cries of desperate mothers and fathers. He opens a view of the universe and after experiencing Him you may feel there is no meaning to your own life after all. He comes by revelation. It is He whom you should live for. He reveals Himself. He is there all the time, He is the cool of the day, He is the burning bush. He is the whirlwind. He is the still small voice. He is the voice crying in the wilderness. He is the water in the rock. He is the rustling in the mulberry tree. He is the writing on the wall. He is the sword of Gideon. He is the "It is finished" on the cross! When He speaks it goes through the earth. His revealation is there when you cannot be. Let Him be. Trust Him!

The Lord was able to fulfill His promise to Abraham because Abraham made worship the center of his life.

His promise to me and you is nothing less.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I thank You and praise You for Your great love and faithfulness to me. My heart is filled with joy whenever I think of the great gift of salvation You have given to me so freely. And I humbly glorify You, Lord Jesus, for You have forgiven me all my sins and brought me to the Father. Now I come in obedience to Your call. I want to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. I do not come because I am worthy myself, but because You have invited me to come. Because You have washed me from my sins. I thank You that You have made the vessel of my life a worthy one to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. I want to be overflowed with Your life, Your love, and Your power, Lord Jesus. I want to show forth Your grace, Your words, Your goodness, and Your gifts to everyone I can. And so, with simple child-like faith, I ask You Lord, to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I open myself to You to receive all of Yourself in me. I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice in praise to You. I welcome Your power and Your miracles to be manifested in me for Your glory and unto Your praise.

Men of God become spirit-filled worshippers. There's nothing like it. Experience and see that the Lord is good.

Be Blessed my brothers,



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Christ's Heart In Every Felon