



Matthew 7:14

# Excellent Things

*"Have not I written to thee excellent things..."* Proverbs 22:20

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## Abraham Went Out Not Knowing

Dear Friends and Family,

As I was worshipping the other day, the Lord began to speak to me about 2019. There are so many unknowns attached to every one of us as we move into the new year. Even in my own life, there are still many unknowns as I wait for God to move in areas as well as waiting on the promises of God. But the Lord reminded me of a Scripture that I want to share with you today as we move into 2019, *"he [Abraham] went out, not knowing whither he went."* (Hebrews 11:8).

As pastors and teachers, we seem to always try to impress upon people that we always know where we are going and what we are supposed to be doing. That's true 95% of the time, but the truth is there are times when we don't know. And particularly when great steps of faith come to us or are required of us, we typically don't know everything. Or else it would not be a step of faith.

Think back to your own life and every time you took a step of faith, or as Jesus said to some of His disciples *"launch out into the deep"* (Luke 5:4) what happened? I know in my life, God always moved in His time and was faithful to His Word. In Jesus' example with His disciples, He told them to let down their nets plural, even though they had been toiling all night and caught nothing. And the Bible says, *"they enclosed a great multitude of*

*fishes: and their net brake"* (Luke 5:6). Notice there that they only let down one net. There was still a measure of disobedience in them. But when Simon saw the fish, it moved him and he fell on his knees, repented, forsook all, and followed Jesus.

So many times there is a part of our lives when we just don't know what is going to happen, where we are headed, what God is doing, etc. because there is an element of faith that needs to be there. When we know everything and it is all programmed out, it makes things easy. But we put God in a box then when we try to figure everything out beforehand. God wants all of us to learn to live by faith. Abraham, who is the father of our faith, experienced what this meant. Let's read the entire passage in Hebrews:

*"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."* (Hebrews 11:8).

The first point here is *"when he was called to go out..."* God called Abraham to go out. We can't just go out on our own charges or go out in the flesh because He then won't be there to back it up. He must call you and I first. We can't just decide one day that we are going to move to such and such a place. I know in my life, there was great pressure a few years ago to move to a certain place. But I never



*"GO YE THEREFORE,  
AND TEACH ALL NATIONS"  
MATTHEW 28:19*

had a release in my spirit from God that this was the place for me. And so I didn't do it and I am grateful for that.

You see, we never move or do anything that we don't have peace from God about. What some people call faith is actually presumption or something they want to do. Then they put God's name on it when in actuality God never told them to do anything. The proof is in the pudding. When God calls us to do anything, there will be provision and proof. Not that it won't be hard. On the contrary, it will be very hard in the beginning. But Jesus will prove Himself faithful and meet the needs and open the doors along the journey.

Consider the story in the Bible when Peter walked on the water. When Peter stepped out of the boat, Jesus told Peter to come to Him. Peter was the only one to do it. Give Peter credit. He stepped out. And he walked on water until he looked at the winds. When he saw that the winds were contrary then he began to sink. But Jesus was still there to hold him up. The principle for us is when we consider our circumstances, it always causes us to begin to sink. We don't sink immediately, but He allows us to drop down a little bit to test us and teach us.

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So the first point with looking at Abraham is we have to be told by God to go to certain places and if He doesn't tell us to go, then do not go. But when God does tell us to go, we go. When Abraham was called to go out, He went out.

Moreover, Isaiah 51:3 says, "Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him." Sometimes we think that everybody will hear from God and move with us, but that is simply not the case. Now I have been fortunate that every time I have made a move, some people have moved with me to help me start a church and serve in a certain capacity. Time and time again, I have seen God move in their lives as well, meeting their needs, opening doors for them, etc. But the principle here is ultimately God calls us alone. He has something distinct He calls each one of us towards. Do not let other people confirm to you the will of God. Do not let the number of people that are with you continue to confirm that you are in the will of God. We don't know if we are in the will of God if we have a lot of money or we seem to have some success. That could be used by the enemy. Prosperity is one of the greatest hurdles in the lives of God's people. Most can't handle it because what the tendency for many is when they are prosperous, they tend to let their guard down and stop pressing on in Jesus.

In all our journeys, we can take heart from David who in his life saw great warfare, challenges, personal mistakes and heartache, as well as victories, blessings, etc. And through it all, his testimony was "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalms 37:25). There was a time in David's life when he was fleeing from Saul and he and his men had nothing to eat. So David visits Ahimelech the

priest for help and the only thing to eat was the shewbread, which only priests were allowed to eat. It was holy bread, bread of His presence. But it was given to David and his men and that was their provision during that time. You see, when we think we have nothing, it is at that moment Jesus has the greatest treasure He wants to give us, living bread or the bread of His presence. So when David penned Psalms 37, perhaps that moment in his life stood out the most. Even at the hardest moment of David's life, the Lord proved faithful!

God calls us many times alone. I have written an entire book on the subject called "The Call To Aloneness." It is probably the most read of all the books I have written because everyone can relate to it. In that book I write my life's journeys about my times of aloneness and desperation and every time the Lord would visit me and show me something glorious. One story in particular I want to share with you.

In 1977, I was pastoring in Chicago, IL and I was up there by myself away. My church in Florida had sent me out and I was only 22 years old pastoring for the first time. Chicago was different than any place I had ever been to in my life, so it took me a while just to get used to the culture, weather, people, etc. The church I was sent to was part of a cult. They never used the name Jesus. They only said "Christ" and had some major doctrinal issues. I was sent to lead them out of the cult. They worshipped, but the presence of God would not come but an evil, religious spirit would. It was weird to me and my job was to turn them to Jesus, fill them with the Holy Ghost, and begin to disciple them to help turn their lives in the right direction following Jesus. It took me three years. I was alone, struggled greatly, but pressed on through and Jesus came

out victorious in those people's lives. It was quite an experience.

But one challenging aspect hit me right away when I got there that I wasn't expecting. Now before I even moved to Chicago, the Lord spoke to me that I was to not seek a wife while I was there, so I made a vow unto the Lord for a few years while I was there to separate myself from any serious relationship with the opposite sex. Well in the church, there was one woman who was a model. And the first time I met her when I moved there, there was an immediate attraction between us. She felt it and I sure did too.

Most of the church consisted of younger people, and because they weren't walking with Jesus, they were very worldly. In trying to get with them for the first time, I let them take me out. Well they ended up taking me to this Hawaiian night club. They were all drinking and having a good time. There I was, just sent out of my church in Florida, full of the Holy Ghost, ready for Jesus to move in their lives, and I am sitting in this night club watching all of these young people drinking and having a good time, thinking to myself, "what have I gotten myself into?" I felt like I was in a den of iniquity. And this model sits down right next to me with these beautiful blue eyes and I thought she was the most beautiful woman I had ever met. As I was looking into her eyes, my heart was smitten. But just then the Holy Ghost whispered to my and reminded me of my vow. So I resisted engaging in this woman that night and the next few years I was there. All during my time of ministering there, she was there front center tormenting me. She was always pursuing and pressuring me to be with her and I couldn't.

I remember after one glorious meeting in particular, all of the young people

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were pressuring me to go out to dinner with them. I remember the meeting so distinctly because it was the first time I actually saw the blazing light of the glory of God with my own two eyes. God really moved that night, but after the meeting all of the young people wanted to go to their usual hangout, this particular Greek restaurant nearby. Well that woman made it known to me that she was going to be there and really wanted me to go. Well this other sister that was my drive home (because my car was in the shop) tried to get me to come as well. She couldn't understand why I didn't want to go out to eat after the meeting and I couldn't tell her why. I just asked her to drop me off at my house.

When we got to my house and had my hand on the door handle to get out of the car, I still remember this sister saying to me, "Come on Sam, please just come out to eat. What's the big deal?" But yet, I didn't want to break my vow and be put in a place to be tempted. So I got out of the car and walked into my empty, dark house that was messy with stuff everywhere from all the other brothers I lived with. It was winter as well, so it was cold. By the time I made it through the house to turn on a few lights, made it through the kitchen, through the foyer, and into the living room, I fell to my knees and burst out weeping. I was so alone and so not knowing what Jesus was actually going to do there. And I just cried and cried there alone until I had no more tears left. After I had finished crying, the glory of God descended upon me and ministered to me. And then I began to cry for another reason. I realized then how foolish, how unfaithful, unbelieving, unthankful, and untrusting I was and how faithful and merciful He had always been. So I began to weep again which came from another well inside of me. As I wept in the presence of God for repentance for my foolishness and

how I allowed myself to get caught up in my emotions, Jesus spoke to me and said, "Now go in the kitchen, and make a bowl of soup, and eat it alone with me." So I went into the kitchen, and as I ate my bowl of soup, the Lord came and sat with me.

Many times, when we do things, God will reassure us, if we stay in His presence. That is the key, to stay in the presence of God and keeping your heart right. We can't get caught up in activities and cares. I can't emphasize this enough. We must keep our heart right and stay in the presence of God every day. God has been around for eternity. He knows the end from the beginning. He doesn't make mistakes. We do. And He hasn't made a mistake when it come to you and your future, your place, and what He has called you to do. So many times we think things like, "My God, this is taking a long time. What is Jesus doing? Has He forgotten? I just keep waiting and waiting and see others prospering, but sit alone here."

But hear me today. Jesus is in control. He has been, and will always be in control! There is nothing like being in the presence of God and not knowing. If you should find yourself like this, know the same was true with Abraham, for Abraham "*went out, not knowing.*"

As 2019 is upon us now, many of us are in a position of "*not knowing.*" But that is alright! If you know that you have been called out, it is okay to not know everything. It is truly the right of passage for all of us. This road that you and I are on is the same path our father Abraham travelled so many years ago. Abraham went out, not knowing, as well as alone. And what happened to Abraham? The Lord "*blessed him, and increased him*" because of his faith in going.

Hebrews 11 also points that that Abraham was "*called to go out into a place*

*which he should after receive for an inheritance.*" God has an inheritance that comes as we obey and go out, following the calling of God. God did not send us out to torment us or overwhelm us. He sent us out to prove our faithfulness and prepare us to handle that glorious inheritance awaiting all of us. Deuteronomy 8:2 says, "*And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart...*" He's finding out what is in our heart. I saw that transpire in everybody I know this past year. But after He finds out that we really just want Him and His will for our life, He for sure is going to bring us into our inheritance. Let this be our direction and purpose for this coming year.

Jesus' calling to "*launch out into the deep*" has not changed. We just continue to obey, even though we might not know exactly what He is doing. So while we are waiting for the promise of God, take heart. Jesus is watching us. You know, many of the saints in Hebrews 11 did not receive the promises of God in their lifetime because "*God having provided some better thing for us...*" (Hebrews 11:40). God has something for us now because He didn't fulfill it with them. What a privilege for us to keep pressing towards our inheritance!

I pray today that this word that has risen up in my heart, is the Word of the Lord for so many of you for this year. As long as God has called you to go, there should never be any condemnation for any struggle and supposed obstacle. Join the ranks of so many and keep believing in your situation knowing the promises of God are sure! God will make everything clear and beautiful in His timing. God has a plan and as you begin to receive your inheritance, all that you would have gone through will be worth it. It will

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be worth every trial and every moment of pressure because you will have found the treasure in that darkness. In the midst of our waste howling wilderness, let's find what God has for us. Psalms 132:6 says, *"We found it in the fields of the wood."* We will find the presence of God and our inheritance in the place in this world God has called us out to if you look for it. Continue every day this year to stay in the presence of God, keeping your heart right, with your eyes on Jesus firming believing, *"that ye may be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* (Hebrews 6:12). Glory to Jesus! Amen!

*Jesus Is Precious!  
Brother Sam*

### Katie's Korner

Greetings my beloved family,

Facing this New Year, my heart is full of resolve to intensify my race for the prize of the High Calling. I, of course, want to bring my precious family with me. I feel such an urgency for it. It is more than some typical need to make an empty resolution for a new year. So many things in our lives are given to vanity. Let us together give merit to this one thing: that we will press toward the mark to the exclusion of all things that so easily beset us.

David says in Psalms 71:1-2, *"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me."* This word *confusion* means "to be disappointed or delayed, to become dry." This is where we find ourselves too many times, just dried up. Life can just drain us, can't it? This

drain we feel can delay our spiritual life.

I'm only writing this, beloved, because I felt an urgency in mine and my family's life to examine our hearts in this new year. If there be any shadow of dryness, my friends, then commit with me to turn our faces. Set them like flint to our course. Let us put our trust in the Lord. He will deliver us in his righteousness, He will cause us to escape, and He will hear us and save us.

I am personally committing myself anew to put Him first in all things. I will be fasting this month to that end. I encourage you all to likewise give something of yourself to Him as a sacrifice to honor your pledge to trust Him, to run after Him, to lay your hearts open to Him that he might break up our fallow and dry ground. I re-commit to trust Him in all things. How about you?

Sister Katie 

## Happy New Year!

We pray everybody had a great New Year! We got to see some snow here in Asheville, which was a treat. It was great being down in Jacksonville, FL during the holidays and seeing everyone at Narrow Way Jax! 2019 brings with it great expectation and promise. Jesus has been and will continue to work all things for good for us (Romans 8:28) as we keep our eyes on the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus is going to use everything from 2018 as it *"worketh for us a far exceeding and eternal weight of glory!"* (II Corinthians 4:17). I believe that with all my heart. We pray for you as we know you pray for us. We love you and could not thank you for everything you do by giving and standing with this humble ministry. May the blessing of the Lord be evident in everything you do this year! On behalf of Brother Sam and Sister Katie, thank you!!

Brother Sam and Sister Katie will be traveling to Concord, NC this month to visit Pastors Robert and Tete McGee at Narrow Way Concord teaching on worship and ministering to those precious people there.

As always, here again is our contact information and the 3 different ways to give. Please stay in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do for you. If you ever desire for Brother Sam to come and visit your area, let us know as well. Receive all our love from Asheville, NC:

- 1) Call me, Andrew Jensen, at 904-514-0409 to give using your debit or credit card
- 2) Mail a check payable to "Narrow Way Ministries International" and mail it to:  
*Narrow Way Ministries International  
825 C Merrimon Ave, PMB #300  
Asheville, NC 28804*
- 3) Go online to pay via PayPal with your debit/credit card at: <http://www.nwmin.org/donate>