



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – January 23, 2021

The Lord be with you.

Do you sense that God is calling you to do something? The God is calling you to do something, but you're not sure where it's going to lead you. Not sure what it will mean for you. Well that sense of not knowing is something I do know something about as twice, I've announced my resignation to church is saying, I know what God is calling me from, but I do not know what God is calling me to. I knew just enough for the next step, but not what would come after that. Well, maybe you are like that today, you know what happened as well with the beginning of this ministry, Water From Rock. I didn't know what it would all mean, I didn't have a clear road map for the way ahead and that's why I like to say that Abraham is my patron saint. As scripture says that Abraham entered God's call and he went out not knowing where he was going.

I'm in the Book of Hebrews today, Chapter 11, often called faith hall of fame. It tells us about some of the great men and women of God who when God called him, they took a bold next step. One of the things I love about Hebrews 11 is it in telling us about these men and women of faith, it says nothing about their sins, it says nothing about their failures, it says nothing about the time I messed up, rather God remembers them for their faith because that's the thing that is important to God, our faith, that we trust him, that we dare to take him at his word and make the next step. In fact, in Hebrews 11:6, it says, "without faith, it is impossible to please God." Faith is always seen in action, in taking the next step.

And that brings us to Hebrews 11:8, where it says that "by faith, Abraham obeyed when called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance." And Abraham set out not knowing where he was going. Now, God's call of Abraham takes us back to Genesis Chapter 12. Abraham is 75 years of age, he might be thinking about setting back, taking life easy, and Abraham is a wealthy man at this point, and at 75 years of age, he hears God's call Abraham, leave your country, leave your Father's house, your relatives. And you go to the land, I will show you. That you will afterwards receive as an inheritance. I can imagine that it is point, Abraham is filled with a million questions, but where am I going? How long will it take me to get there? How will I know if I even like the land? How will I know when I'm there? God is asking this senior man to make a huge, huge change in his life with little information, but that God is telling him to go. What can you imagine Abraham trying to explain this to his wife, Sarah. Hey, Sarah, we're moving. Well, why are we moving? Because God told me. Where are we moving? I don't know. What do you mean you don't know? I don't know. How will we get there? I don't know. How will we know when we are there? I don't know. All I know is that God told me to go. You know, that makes me think of Martin Luther King Jr when he said that faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.



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When God called Abraham to go to some unnamed place that he would later later receive as an inheritance, he stepped out. Even though he did not know where he was going. Scripture says that by faith, he lived in that land like a stranger in a foreign country. Living in tents. God sometimes does lead us in ways we do not know, in ways we do not understand. He asks us to make the next step before we have all the information, as faith is obeying God even when we do not understand. You and I, we have those moments in our lives when God tells us to step out in faith. And I wanna tell you a story that has helped me on a couple of occasions when I sense God's call to step out and to trust Him. It is a story told by that great Christian writer, Henri Nouwen. I read.

"The flying revelries are trapeze artists who perform in a German circus. When the circus came to Freberg a few years ago, my friend's friends and Renny invited me and my father to see the show. I will never forget how in Rapture became... When I first saw the revelries move through the air flying and catching as elegant dancers. The next day I returned to the circus to see them again and introduce myself to them as one of their great fans. They invited me to attend their practice sessions, gave me free tickets asked me to dinner and suggest that I travel with him for a week in the near future. Well, I did. And we became good friends. One day I was sitting with Rodley, the leader of the troop in his caravan, talking about flying. He said, as a flyer on the trapeze I must have complete trust in my catcher. The public might think that I am the great star of the trapeze, but the real star is Joe, my catcher. He has to be there for me with split second precision and grabbed me out of the air as I come to him in the long jump. How does it work? I ask. The secret, Rodley said, the secret is that the Flyer does nothing, and the catcher does everything. When I fly to Joe, I have simply to stretch out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me and pull me safely over the apron behind the catch bar. You do nothing. I said, surprised. Nothing, Rodley repeated. The worst thing the flyer can do is to try to catch the catcher, I am not supposed to catch Joe, it's Joe's task to catch me. If I grab Joe's wrist, I might break them, he might break mine, and that would be the end for both of us. No, a flyer must fly and a catcher must catch, and the flyer must trust with out-stretched arms that his catcher will be there for him. When Rodley said this with so much conviction, I realized, God will be there for you. Don't try to grab him. He will grab you. Just stretch out your arms and hands and trust, trust, trust."

My prayer for you and for me this week, as we walk by faith, that we will trust, trust, trust the catcher.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.