

Building a legacy

So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

(Gen. 12.4)

These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years. Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people.

(Gen. 25.7-8)

How long have you been working in your present job? A year, five years, ten years? Have you received that "employee recognition" of the five-year pin or the plaque for having worked a long time with the company? I read a few years ago that in the course of one's life, a person may have as many as five jobs. People stay in jobs at particular places for reasons and they leave for reasons. I served in the Navy for twenty-one years and then retired and answered God's call to vocational ministry; this past year I celebrated twenty years as a pastor. I do not think I have ever known anyone who worked in the same job for 100 years! That would be the epitome of the loyal worker.

Genesis 12 introduces us to a man named Abram whose name God would later change to Abraham (Gen. 17.5). God called Abram to take his family and his possessions, leave his home in northern Syria, and go to the promised land later to be called Israel. This journey was a 500-mile journey. Abram was obedient to do what God called him to do.

God called Abram when Abram was seventy-five years old. Abraham died at the age of 175 which means for 100 years Abraham served God faithfully. Think about that, for 100 years Abraham served God faithfully. Abraham was seventy-five when God called him to go, and then served God faithfully for the next 100 years.

Abraham's life was one of simple faith: God told Abraham what to do and Abraham did it. Abraham was not perfect, he had his faults, but Abraham was faithful. Abraham's life was not easy, in fact, in Gen. 22, Abraham is told by God to offer up his son Isaac on the altar as a test of obedience. Abraham did not waiver and did what God told him to do. When Abraham raised knife to kill his son, God stopped him and blessed Abraham for being faithful.

What God called Abraham to do in Abraham's life was what God called *him* to do. We are all like Abraham because God calls us to a life of obedience. We are also not like Abraham because God put calls on Abraham's life that were specific to him. But regardless, as children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, we are all called into a life of obedience. Abraham's life was a celebration of obedience for 100 years. The number of years we have served the Lord are not as important as the fact that we *are* serving the Lord. Abraham built a legacy of faith one day at a time as he obeyed God. While none of us can change the past, we can start today by being faithful. Faithful living daily leads to a legacy of faithful obedience. Focus on being faithful today and every day God gives you and you too will build a legacy of faithfulness for the next generation.