

# Stones

*Week #1: A Rolling Stone  
Abraham - Genesis 12:1-9*

1. The tension: When something is “unknown” it can easily be **paralyzing**.

- Genesis 12:1 - *The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.*
- Matthew 6:31,34 - *31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

2. The issue: Facing the unknown is really a **control** issue.

- Genesis 12:4-7 - *4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.*
- Hebrews 11:1-2,8 - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for...8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*
- James 4:14,15 - *Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”*

3. The promise: Different place, **same** God.

- Genesis 12:2-3 - *2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*
- Genesis 12:7-9 - *7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. 9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.*

- Hebrews 12:1-2,28 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,*

### **Points to Ponder**

In the People's Bible on Genesis Pastor John Jeske writes, "There is a time to pray for God's guidance, but there's also a time to stop praying and to start moving. Abraham followed in glad obedience."

- a. What is the point Pastor Jeske wants us to take home with this statement? (Consider that he is not saying we should ever stop praying.)
- b. What personal take away do you connect with in his statement? (Consider a decision you are wrestling with right now or have in the past when something unknown was in your future.)
- c. What spiritual take away can we learn as a congregation from this statement? (Consider our transition from the former church building to the new one?)

***Homework: Genesis 27 & 28***