

Ten Practices for Spiritual Growth

(week of August 14, 2005)

1. Write down three things you are enjoying most about your life's journey at this time.
2. Write down two things that are causing you the most frustration in your life's journey right now.
3. What is the one thing about your current life journey that if you and God together would change would have the greatest impact for good?
4. Think of two "trials" that you have experienced that as you look back now, were really opportunities for God to help you grow and improve.
5. Can you think of one time (or more) where, like Abraham, unbeknownst to you, God was acting in your behalf and only in retrospect were you able to see that it was indeed the hand of God?
6. God's intentions for Abraham's journey are four fold: (1) to tutor him - make him a disciple; (2) to make him into a new person; (3) to help him become wise and upright and strong in character, and (4) to position him and his offspring to become a blessing to the world. List a few ways you can serve God doing that as He leads you in your journey.
7. What has been your hardest "trial" so far?
8. Think of two times where you have seen God's power.
9. Abraham moved from native trust, hesitant trust (ch. 12) to absolute trust (ch. 22); where are you on that continuum in your relationship with God?
10. As you pray for your children this week as they begin school (or other persons in your care), what is the one most important thing you can do for them, and what is the one most important thing you would ask God to do for them?

Abraham's Journey

Scripture (Genesis)	Abraham's Trials	Divine Encounters with Abraham	Other Divine Deeds (Not known to Abraham)*
12:1-9	A perceived call to leave home and go	Command and promise	
12:10	Famine in the new land	Promise of Land (12:7)	
12:11-20	Sarah in trouble in Egypt		Sends Plagues to Pharaoh
13:1-18	Trouble with Lot	Increased Promise of Land and Seed (vv.14-17)	
14:1-24	Lot in trouble, A rescues		
15		Increased promise, covenant	
16	Hagar, Sarah and strife		Appeals to Hagar to return (16:7-12)
17	Covenant of Circumcision	Charge and covenant	
18:1-15	Visit from strangers	God appears as strangers and promises a son	
18, 19	Trouble in Sodom		God destroys Sodom
20	Abraham lies again about Sarah		God rescues Sarah Isaac born (21:1-7)
21	Conflict with Hagar and Ishmael		God rescues Ishmael
22	Fall Obedience?	Command to sacrifice Isaac Increased promise (vv.15-18)	God provides a ram

*Thanks, in part, is due to Leon Kass, *The Beginning of Wisdom*, p. 263; the above is a modification of his original chart.