

ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

A Classic Series

Portrait of a Hero . . . Warts and Everything

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–12, 17–19



LET'S BEGIN HERE

When Abraham passed down the account of his life, he didn't carefully edit the story to hide his roughness, pimples, and warts. And when God's Spirit moved Moses to include the history of Abraham in the book of Genesis, the uncomfortable, embarrassing, shameful, and downright sinful episodes of the Patriarch's life weren't censored. Certainly, a lot of ink in the Bible is dedicated to Abraham, and some of it records his escapades marked by folly, faithlessness, and failure. The biblical writers made no attempt to airbrush, smooth over, or cover-up the truth to fit some glamorized version of this hero of the faith. As we take a parting look at Abraham's life as a whole, we'll be reminded that he was as much a sinner as he was a saint. And in that realistic portrait, we'll find both warning and inspiration.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. Several Benefits of Studying Biblical Biographies

When we study the great lives of the Bible, we come in contact not with fictional characters or legendary figures but with real people who have real struggles, just like us. Such an exploration can have several benefits.

- It translates truth into life.
- It provides a closer kinship with those we have admired from a distance.
- It stabilizes us when we go through similar experiences.
- It enables us to maintain a divine perspective.



Quotable

*When God leads,
we follow. What
He promises, we
believe. When He
tests, we trust.
However He
blesses, we share.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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2. General Overview of Abraham's Life

Hebrews 11 devotes more verses to the life of Abraham and Sarah than any other Old Testament saint (Hebrews 11:8–19). When we examine both the heights and depths of that nomad's journey of faith, we can learn vital truths about our own walk.

- The Heights. When he was called, Abraham obeyed. What he was promised, he believed. When he was tested, he trusted. As he was blessed, he shared.
- The Depths. When he was afraid, he retreated. When he became impatient, he listened to wrong counsel. When he faced a similar test, he repeated the same failure.



LET'S LIVE IT

We can learn some valuable lessons through our examination of the heights and depths of Abraham's life of faith.

- Wherever God leads, follow.
- Whatever God promises, believe.



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- Whenever God tests, trust.
- However God blesses, share.

Read through Hebrews 11:8–19 again, this time circling words or phrases related to faith or belief; underlining those related to obedience; and bracketing those related to promise or blessing. What can you conclude about Abraham's life based on your observation of these occurrences?



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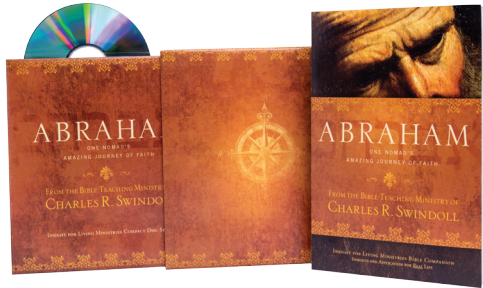
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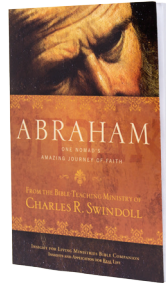
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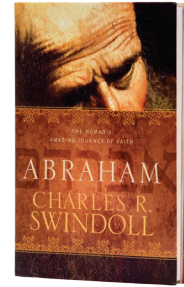
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Abraham: One Nomad's
Amazing Journey of Faith**
by Charles R. Swindoll and
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Classic CD series and
softcover Bible Companion



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