



July 2011

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

*“So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.” (Genesis 12:4)*

It’s amazing what some people do in their retirement years.

I have heard of those who have written a book and gone on to be a successful author. I have seen some who have started businesses that ended up being more prosperous than in their career days. And I have known many who started wonderful ministries when their secular counterparts were retiring and playing golf.

I love the fact that the Lord uses people of all ages. You are never too young or too old, to serve God. And when the Lord called Abram, he was at the ripe age of seventy-five! What the Lord called Abram to do was no small task. Genesis 12:1-4 says:

*“Now the Lord had said to Abram, ‘Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you; and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”*

Imagine being elderly and leaving your home, your family, and your country to go live in a place that you have never even visited?

No matter what age we are, we need to obey God’s call on our lives. We can bring a lot of grief upon ourselves when we stop short of obeying the Lord’s instructions to us. Most marriages suffer because one or both spouses refuse to do what God has commanded. Our families often suffer because parents and children don’t follow God’s instructions. And our jobs suffer because we don’t do what God tells us to do.

Sometimes we don’t do what God wants us to do and we experience more problems and more tension in our lives.

If you are hearing the voice of God, you need to obey and follow through—don’t stop short of complete obedience to God’s will!

When Jesus was approached by a rich young ruler who asked Him what he should do to inherit eternal life, Jesus ran through the Ten Commandments that God had given to Moses, calling for the man to obey them. The ruler told Jesus he had kept the commandments his whole life. When Jesus heard his answer, he said, *“You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me .” (Luke 18:22)*

*(Continued on reverse side)*

Did the man obey God's call? No. He walked away sad because he didn't want to give up his riches. He stopped short in his obedience to God.

My friend, your life is never going to be right until you heed the voice of God and obey what He tells you to do. It doesn't matter how old (or young) you are—there is never a good excuse for not obeying God's Word.

“But Pastor Steve, you don't know who I am married to—he/she is impossible to live with.” So you seek a divorce, even though God has told you to keep your commitment and love your spouse. “Pastor Steve, it's not like I am stealing, I am just using some of the stuff at work—after all, they really owe me for all I have done for them,” and you rip off your place of employment even though God has told you to be honest and to be a good employee.

It's amazing how we try to justify our disobedience to God. We always think our situation is unique and feel we are exempt from following God's instruction to us. We try to bargain with God and wiggle out of His instructions to us.

I am reminded of a cute, but poignant story about obedience. A little girl asked her girlfriend if she could go on a picnic with her. “Just a minute, I'll go ask my mother.” When she came back, she told her friend that her mother wouldn't let her go. The other little girl then said, “Aw, you probably didn't talk hard enough. Don't let your mother do that. Go beg her some and then she'll probably let you go.” “Oh, no,” she answered. “When my mother says ‘no’ she doesn't change her mind. She knows what's best for me, so I'll do what she says.” How much more should Christians be like that—willing to take what God says, realizing that He knows what's best for us.

Listen, the only safe place for you to be in life is in the center of God's will. When you heed the Lord's call—when you follow His instruction to you, your life will be filled with His peace no matter how stormy the circumstances of life are.

Don't stop short—obey God completely and you will be completely filled by God.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Steve". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Pastor Steve