WHEN GOD GIVES AN ASSIGNMENT
GENESIS 12:1-3

If God came to you and gave you an assignment, how would you respond? What would be your reaction to His assignment? God is God over His world, and it has been His nature all through down history to give people God sized assignments for the express purpose of advancing His work, His kingdom, and revealing His divine glory and power.

In the Old Testament God wanted to develop a nation that would worship Him…so God called Abram and gave Him an assignment to leave his family and become that the father of a nation that would follow God.

Among His people Israel, God wanted His people to move out of captivity and journey to the Promised Land…so God came to Moses and gave Him an assignment. His assignment was to lead a nation of better than 2 million people to that Promised Land and to be God’s people.

God desired to save the human race by His precious Son’s redemption…therefore He came to a woman named Mary and relayed unto her His God sized assignment. She was to carry the Christ, the Redeemer for all the world. Her assignment was God sized, namely to carry and give birth to the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world.

Because of God’s love for man, He wanted His good news…the wonderful plan of salvation to go into all the world…including the Gentiles…so God called a man by the name of Paul to carry the gospel…in order that men and women could be saved, and have an intimate walk with the Living God and be His people not only for time but for all eternity.

Scripture is clear, all throughout the pages of Holy Scripture, God has come to a man, woman, a people, a church, and relayed His God sized agenda.

Down through the centuries it has been and still is the nature of God to come to those whom He will and relay His God sized assignment.

The reality is….a person, and even a church can refuse His assignments. However, that refusal is not without consequences.

In the life of Abram, in Genesis 12, is the wonderful demonstration of God relaying His assignment to one man…and what took place afterwards.

If you are saved by God…God has an assignment for your life….the issue is do you desire to know it, and do what the Father says.

To the Lord’s church, God will come to His church and relay a God sized assignment…and the future blessings of that congregation is determined by their willing to be obedient in that “one” given assignment”.

God is all about advancing His world, His kingdom, and His people. God has always desired to have a people to honor Him, worship Him, exalt Him. It is a
major issue in the heart of God that He have a true godly people, pure in heart, that worship Him, and follow Him. That has not changed from the creation of the first man to the birth of the last man on the earth. But what is involved when God gives an assignment?

1. **ASSIGNMENTS COME FROM THE HEART OF GOD.** When you read the text of Genesis 12, it is vital to understand who was giving the assignment. The Bible says that this assignment was from the Lord God Almighty. Abram didn’t think up something to do for the Lord. Abram didn’t awaken one day and decide to leave his family. Abram was given a call from Almighty God to leave his family and his kin in order that God could work in his heart and life and build a nation for himself.

   There is something sobering all through Scripture regarding assignments. God never calls a person to dream up something to do for God. God is the One who has the entire world on His heart.

   God is the One that is building His kingdom. God is the One that takes the initiative and come to whom He will and give them His assignments.

   In the life of Moses…Moses didn’t one day desire to lead the children of Israel out of bondage…God came to Him with an assignment, a directive to lead His people.

   In the life of Paul…it wasn’t the initiative of Paul to take the gospel to the Gentiles…it was the heart of God in sending Paul. This world, and every person in this world is on the heart of God. God is moving in His world, and He is looking for a faithful people to follow Him.

   In the life of Abram, he learned that God was the One calling Him away…and what he did next determined not only his future, but the future of untold numbers. God has not changed since this event better than four thousand years ago. God declares about His very nature, “I change not”. Since we serve a changeless God, His people can expect Him to come from time to time, and relay God-sized assignments. For His people the ultimate issue is…will they follow and obey.

2. **ASSIGNMENTS COME WITH ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.** What would the Bible read like if Abram had not left his family to go where God was leading? What would Scripture be, if Moses had completely refused to go where God was leading him, to a people that were trapped in bondage that needed God’s release.

   Can you imagine what the New Testament would read like if Mary would have been unfaithful in God’s agenda to carry the Christ child. Here is a sobering
and overwhelming truth. When a person, people or church is given an assignment, there are eternal consequences if there is disobedience.

Abram knew that the Lord had called him to leave his land, yet, Abram did not understand all that was involved. But, in the life of Abram, one thing was clear...any and all future blessings were dependent on what he did with this one assignment. “THIS ONE ASSIGNMENT” was of major consequence to not only Abram but to all that he would give birth to and all that would come from his being.

Had Abram refused to follow God, we probably would not know much of him, remember his name, for he would have gone down in Scripture as a man that disobeyed God, had he walked away from his God given assignment.

Had Abram refused to follow God, then all the blessings of God would not have been released to him, and to his descendents. Had Abram disobeyed God, there would not be Genesis 12:3…regarding the blessings of God.

Through obedience to the assignment and the agenda of God, Abram heard the Lord God say this, “I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.”

At the age of 75, Abram heard the word of God speak to him, and irregardless of his age, he “followed the assignment of God”, realizing that there were eternal consequences that are in effect.

Often times we say something like this if God gives us a direction, “I know what the Lord said, but I just feel like I can’t do what he is asking”. However, the sobering truth is, when God comes to a person, people or church, and gives an assignment….there are always eternal consequences that hang in the balance that only eternity will reveal.

Imagine the numbers of people that have developed an intimate walk with the Living God as a byproduct of Abram’s devotion to the agenda of God. Imagine all the lives that have been born to worship the Lord God, because Abram left family, to worship the ONE TRUE GOD.

Only God knows the lives that have been touched by the faithful obedience in the life of Abram to the will of God. From the body of Abram, would come the birthing of a nation that God would call Israel… a people to walk with Him, and have fellowship with Him, chosen by the very hand of God. And it was through the line of Israel, and the tribe of Benjamin that God would raise up the greatest missionary of all time…the apostle Paul…to carry the gospel unto the Gentile nations.

Abram could have never known the full ramifications of his obedience, and the same holds true today as well. If you are obedient to the Living God with your life, you will never know the full scope of your Christian witness. God will make
it His business to cause people to be blessed because of your life…because that is the way he works.

When a church is willing to follow God in a God-sized assignment, there will be the supernatural, wonderful, overwhelming presence of the peace, love and power of God upon that fellowship. Not because they are super-special, but because they have purposed to follow the assignments of the Living God.

3. ASSIGNMENTS OFTEN COME WITH LIMITED INFORMATION.

There is one phrase found in Genesis 12:1 that we often overlook, yet is very significant to understanding the assignments of God. As God called Abram to leave his country and his kin, God also declared to Abram to go… “unto a land that I will show you”. Simply put, God declared to Abram, that he was not going to release all the details to him at once, but rather details would be given on a “need to know basis”. Why did the Lord God not give to Abram all the details at once? After all God is all powerful and He can do whatever is pleasing to Himself, could He not tell Abram what the future held? Absolutely. Yet, God was interested in Abram staying close to Him in an intimate relationship. Had God given Abram a complete road map to the mountain, Abram may have started off, and not remained close to the Lord…depending upon Him, listening to Him, and allowing Him the complete right to his life.

Limited information is not a sign that God doesn’t know what the future holds. Since God is Almighty and all knowing, He knows well what each day holds. Yet, when God withholds information from us, it is a call to us to stay close to Him, to depend on Him, to lean on Him moment by moment, day by day.

In truth, God has very significant reasons for withholding information from us. He knows well the independent nature of mankind, therefore He does what is necessary to cause us to depend upon Him. In truth, mankind functions best with “limited information”. Though Abram didn’t know where the place was that he was to go, God would make it His business to release to Abram all the information that he needed when it was vital and significant. When God gives to you an assignment, He may well not release all the information to you…but He will always release enough information to step moment by moment in obedience to Him, His will and His agenda. However, if we fail to follow and obey, we will always live and suffer the consequences for failure to follow His assignments.