

It is GREAT to have a promise, but, when the fulfillment of that promise is delayed, waiting is hard. We call the process of living in the expectation of a promise being fulfilled “hope.” Christmas is about hope.

God chose for Abraham to be the first in Jesus’s family tree because Abraham’s life teaches us three things about Jesus life and about ours.

1. There has to be a “leaving” of where you are before you can arrive at the place God has prepared for you.
 - a. Life came to Abraham because he had the faith to leave where he was so he could go where God wanted him, Genesis 12:1-5, Hebrews 11:8.
 - b. Life came through Jesus because He was willing to leave where He was so He could come to this earth to save us, John 1:1-5, 14.
 - c. Life comes to us when we are willing to trust God’s promises and leave where we are to come to Him, Matthew 16:24.
2. There has to be a “laying down” of what you want before you can start living out what God wants.
 - a. Life came to Abraham because he surrendered his will to the Almighty, Genesis 16:15-16, 18:9-10, 21:10-14.
 - b. Life came through Jesus because He surrendered His will to the Father, John 5:19-20, 30, 36.
 - c. Life comes to us when we surrender our will to the Lord, Matthew 6:10.

3. There has to be a “letting go” of what you have before you can take hold of what God offers.
 - a. Life came to Abraham because he was willing to sacrifice all he had in order to receive all that God had for him, Genesis 22:1-18.
 - b. Life came through Jesus because He was willing to let go of everything in order to receive everyone who would come to Him, Matthew 26:36-44.
 - c. Life comes to us when we trust God enough to give up everything we treasure, because we treasure Him MORE, Galatians 2:20.

Is there anything you need to “leave” today to experience the hope Jesus brings?

Is there anything you need to “lay down” today to follow Jesus into His hope?

Is there anything you need to “let go” of today that is keeping you from walking in the hope Jesus gives?