

unstuck

Intro:

sometimes we feel stuck - unmotivated, unconnected, unmoved

how do we get unstuck?

Problem:

Ps 51:1-12 (restore to me the joy of your salvation - he felt alone)

How did David get here?

probably a bit at a time - no one sets out to ruin it all - to leave the faith - but they do

He lost his first love - Rev 2:1-7

it can happen very slowly - you start reading less of the Bible, you pray less, you find yourself restless and constantly focused on other things, your prayers feel pointless and church feels pointless and pretty soon Christ begins to feel pointless too.

How do we get back? How do we get unstuck?

Abraham is going to show us...

Main Idea:

When you feel stuck
go back to the Word
go back to your walk
go back to your worship

Implication:

Mamre = strength, Hebron = communion

2 sam 16:1-14; 1 sam 30:1-6 strengthened himself in the Lord
- psalm 13 (psalms of David)

Application:

At the throne of grace you are never really stuck
you have His Word
you have His power
You have His altar
worship Him here

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-dryness.html>

<https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/let-us-draw-near-hebrews-4-14-5-10.pdf>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/backslide.html>

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Text

When you feel stuck

Gen. 13:1 ¶ So Abram **went up from Egypt**, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.
went up from Egypt - Gen 12:10-13:1 (back where he started- no altars in egypt)

Go back to the Word

Gen. 13:2 ¶ Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.
Gen. 13:3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been **at the beginning**, between Bethel and Ai,
Gen. 13:4 to **the place where he had made an altar at the first**. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

at the beginning - Gen 12:1-9 (the place He said to go)
- Heb 2:1-4 (go back to the Word)
- Acts 2:42 (back to devotion)

Go back to your walk

Gen. 13:5 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents,
Gen. 13:6 so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together,
Gen. 13:7 and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. (already hurt testimony in Egypt)
Gen. 13:8 ¶ Then Abram said to Lot, "**Let there be no strife** between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.
Gen. 13:9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."
Gen. 13:10 And Lot **lifted up his eyes and saw** that the Jordan Valley **was well watered** everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)
Gen. 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.
Gen. 13:12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as **Sodom**.

Gen. 13:13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.
let there be no strife - Phil 4:4-13 (go back to you joy peace and true contentment)
- Gal 5:16-24 (go back to your walk)
like garden of Eden - Gen 3:6 (the eyes see what the heart loves)
Sodom - Gen 14:12 (lived there); Gen 19:1 (a leader there)
- Rom 6:12-23 (cant present members)

Go back to your worship

Gen. 13:14 ¶ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,
Gen. 13:15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.
Gen. 13:16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.
Gen. 13:17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."
Gen. 13:18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre (strength), which are at Hebron (communion), **and there he built an altar to the LORD**.

an altar - Gen 13:4 (begin and end at the altar)
- 1 Jn 1 (back to fellowship)
- Col 3:16-24 (back to worship)
- Heb 4:14-16 (back to the throne of grace)