

1. Lift up your Eyes in 2025

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Subtitle: Getting a God-given vision for our lives

We are still near the beginning of the new year, and many people are still trying to get clarity concerning their plans & purposes for 2025.

- Last week's message was about visions & dreams
- Today we will speak about laying hold of a fresh vision for our lives

Proverbs 29:18 (ESV) *Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

- Vision provides focus, and a bundling of energy towards a specific goal
- Usually, we have multiple visions (goals, desires)
 - Spiritual goals
 - Family goals
 - Vocational goals
 - Health goals
 - Etc.

1. Abram & Lot laid hold of a vision for their lives

Genesis 13:1–13 (ESV) *So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 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, 4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. 5 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, 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**, 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. 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. 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.**" 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.) **11** So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. **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. **13** Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

- Abraham was very rich, and his nephew Lot was quite prosperous too
- There was strife between Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen
- Abraham proposed to Lot that they separate & each go their own way
- Lot choose for himself the plains of Jordan & went to Sodom
- Abraham waited for God's instructions & was given the land of Canaan
 - Lot made a self-centred choice and walked out of God's will
 - Abraham took the "left-overs" and remained in God's will for his life
- It is never a good idea to make self-centred choices & walk away from God's will for our lives, either:
 - Economically or geographically
(i.e. well-watered plains... Don't follow the money!)
 - Associations
(Don't walk away from godly people & associate with wicked people)
- Lot's fleshly decision ended up causing major mayhem for him & his family

Genesis 13:14–17 (ESV) *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, **15** for **all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.** **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. **17** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."*

- God spoke to Abraham after Lot had separated from him
- God said: Lift up your eyes & look from the place where you are
- All the land that you see – I will give it to you & to your descendants
- Although Abraham was already very rich – God had more in mind
- No matter where you are right now – God as more in mind for you
- Don't just think about yourself, think about your descendants

2. The Word of the Lord for us for 2025: Lift up your Eyes

- Ask ourselves these questions:
 - Who do I want to be? Personality & Character

- What do I want to do? Profession
- What do I want to have? Prosperity

- Develop a vision for where you want to be at the end of 2025 and beyond

3. There is a certain sequence to moving forward in & towards God's will:

- a. Lift up your eyes get a vision
 - b. Look from the place where you are (right now)
 - c. See
 - d. Arise & Walk
 - e. Build an altar to the Lord
- Where are you today?
 - Your current station in life?
 - God does not want us stationary – He wants us moving forwards

God's prophetic vision for Abraham was:

- Initially vague - ... to a land that I will show you
- Then it became specific ... the land that you see, I give it to you

4. Building altars to the Lord

Genesis 13:18 (ESV) *So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and **there he built an altar to the Lord.***

- When God appears to Abraham & spoke to him about giving him the land for his descendants, he built an altar to the Lord (Gen. 12:7)
- When Abraham moved to the next place, he built an altar to the Lord (Gen. 12:8)
- After God spoke to him about lifting up his eyes, he built another altar to the Lord (Gen. 13:18)
- Abraham was in the habit of building altars to the Lord
 - Worship
 - Offering (give God something)
 - Consecration (surrender to God's will & purpose for one's life)
- There is no record of Lot ever building an altar to the Lord

Psalm 37:4 (ESV) *Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.*