

miles and miles of open road stretching before us. Even if we don't have the latest and the greatest, the question remains: is what we have—possession, relationship, position, etc.—what we're called to be about or is it weighing us down, keeping us from what God is asking of us?

By Genesis 11 sin had grown to the point that people believed they were completely independent from God. They settled on making a name for themselves and decided to build a monument to establish their fame. God, ever zealous for His glory, intervened, confused their language, and the people were scattered as a result. Abram's ancestors were part of the scattering. Terah, Abram's father, decided to move his family and their families to the land of Canaan, but when they arrived in Haran, they settled there instead. And that's where Terah died. Let me say this again: Terah was meant for Canaan but settled in Haran, and where he settled, he died.

"Where have you SETTLED?
are you willing to DIE there?
...is your HEART OPEN to hearing a word from the Lord?"

If we're honest, every single one of us can relate to this story in some way or other. We start out saying no to God on one teensy weensy little thing, then it grows and soon we find ourselves building monuments to ourselves in order to show the world how great we are. We know we're meant for Canaan but we decide to settle in Haran. And just like Terah, where you settle is where you'll die.¹

Genesis 11 is the context for Abram's calling and blessing. God was not content to let his glory go unnoticed on earth so he called and blessed Abram, a man who had settled for Haran. God said, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen 12.1-3). All it took was a word from God to break Abram out of his settled state.

My questions to you are: Where have you settled? Are you willing to die there? And is your heart open to hearing a word from the Lord?

Finally, let me encourage you with this truth: God never settles for less than He's called you to be. You will never hear Him say "Child, I'm calling you to (fill in the blank), but it's all right if you decide to do something else instead." He is committed to displaying His glory on earth through your life. Don't settle, friend. Please don't be content with anything less than His Glory.

¹ This idea settling and the biblical progression from Genesis 1 to 12 was the foundation of a talk given by Brenda Saltar McNeil at Urbana 2006, St Louis, MO.