

Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of July 29-August 4, 2018

Main Thought and Passages:

The saying "let go and let God" often means, "stop worrying excessively and trust in God." Unfortunately, it could also wrongly imply that we don't need to do anything and that God will take care of everything for us. The fulfillment of our purpose in life does require "good works" in alignment with God's will. These are often bold steps of faith out of our comfort zones. A better statement would be, "let go of your agenda, take steps of faith and obedience, and let God handle the results."

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:8-10)*

- While salvation is by faith, and not works, the fulfillment of our destinies involves steps of faith and obedience or "good works."
- Abraham took steps of faith by leaving his homeland and by offering his son Isaac to God as a sacrifice.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going...¹⁷By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death." (Hebrews 11:8, 17-19)

- As Abraham took steps of faith in obedience to God, God intervened and fulfilled His promise to make him into a great nation.

*"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth...they were longing for a better country—a **heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared **a city** for them." (Hebrews 11:13, 16)*

- Like Abraham, we will be able to take steps of faith when our hope is ultimately in Jesus and our eternal reward.

Reflection:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and passages and why?
- When have you experienced God's help in your life as you remained obedient and faithful to Him? What happened and what did you learn?

Application:

- What is one area of your life that God is challenging you to be faithful and obedient in right now? What practical steps can you take to be more obedient and faithful?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to be obedient and faithful to God in one specific area of challenge.
- Pray for one unreached friend or family member that they would come to trust in Jesus and experience His help in their lives as well.