

As you read this, Karen, the girls and I are packing the largest U-Haul truck we could find with all our earthly possessions awaiting the 5 hour drive from Springville to Saratoga Springs. Funny, 12 years ago to the day we were packing our home in Atlanta, GA to make the 15 hour trip to Springville – Do you see a pattern developing here? As we've packed, sorted through items, given stuff away and packed some more – All this amid one snow storm after another (December 22nd, 18-22 inches)! As I shoveled last Monday and Tuesday for the umpteenth time this Winter, my thoughts went back to a conversation with the Elders back in November: *“Sure, we can start in January, no problem!”* Yikes! What was I thinking?!!!

I wonder if Abraham had that same feeling as he started out for an unknown land, with the words of God echoing in his ear: *“Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you...”* (Genesis 12:1) What do you suppose was running through Abraham's mind? Fear? Anxiety? Dread? Excitement? Sense of adventure? Peace in walking in the center of God's will?

Yeah, been there, done that – But you know what? That's what it means to step out by faith and trust God. But, He doesn't balk at that or push us back from our emotions, especially the negative ones. I believe He embraces them (us) and asks us to lean hard into Him: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”* (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

So, as we pull out of Springville tomorrow to our new home in Saratoga Springs, we will do just that. We will trust in the Lord with all our heart and instead of leaning on our own understanding, we will learn to lean hard on God. We are looking forward to seeing God's leading, blessing and presence in this coming year as we settle in to our new home and begin living life with our new family – You!

By the way – As you peek into the new year, what do you need to trust God with and lean hard into Him for? After all, God's calling **you** to a new adventure, not just the Forsythe family. This year, God is going to stretch you, challenge you, enable you and move you – And may it be said of us as it was said of Abraham: *“So Abram left (obeyed, followed God), as the Lord told him...”* (Genesis 12:4)

See ya soon!

Pastor Mark