

## **Pilgrims in Process**

How's it going? Not an uncommon greeting, eh? The operative word here is going. I've been thinking a good bit about going that is life as a *pilgrim in process*.

**It's easy to become so focused on *doing* that we forget we're *going*.** We're on a journey you and me. Originally, we were created at home in Eden. But since the fall, life has become a journey and home has become a dream... something longed for and future, not fictitious! **It's not permanence, but pilgrimage we are called to embrace in this life. Pilgrimage means process, movement, change, hope and ultimately... destination.**

This pilgrim image in scripture is a continual one.

(A quick search of pilgrim(s), stranger(s), alien(s), foreigner(s), and pilgrimage yielded 186 verses in NKJV and 182 in NIV.)

This time I'll only refer to this one!

**Hebrews 11:13-16** These all died in faith, not having received the (*fulfillment of the*) promises, but having *seen them afar off* were *assured* (*persuaded*) of them, *embraced* them *and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth*. For those who *say such things* declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly *if they* had called to mind that country from which they had come out, *they would* have had opportunity to return. ***But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.***

### ***Could anything be more definitive of your life today than this text?***

Pilgrims have a promise perspective! They choose to focus on a past promise of a precious future. It captures their eyes.

Pilgrims are promise persuaded! They are so totally convinced of the truth of the promises that it captures their minds.

Pilgrims are promise huggers! They don't just read the promises; they hug them to their hearts. It captures their emotions.

Pilgrims are promise confessors! They gladly affirm they aren't home, yet. But glory! We're on the journey! It captures their tongues.

My folks sold our farm when I was fifteen. I chose to not go with my parents. I remember an emptiness that day, when home wasn't home anymore. Three years later when I came to faith in Christ, I was filled with an incredible peace and joy that home was not a lonely memory, but a now certain future face to face with Jesus Christ.

Abraham never did live in a city. He never even lived in a house! He was a pilgrim in a tent with a promise and he was content.

**God has given you an Abraham-like call.** You've seen a promise so precious and so captivating that you packed your bags, said a hundred goodbyes and headed out. This isn't just about a term; it's about a terminal life is launching pad for eternity. The lot of this life may stay where life is comfortable. You give them their freedom. But you've been hijacked by a promise that has made you a pilgrim. And the rest of your journey is a process a process of changing you into someone God is not ashamed to identify as His own.

Check out Abraham's journey. (Gen 12-22) He struggled with fear and those fears at times defeated him. But God wasn't about to abandon Abraham to those fears. Abraham would confront them every step of his journey until the day God called for the ultimate sacrifice and said of Abraham *now I know you fear God!* From then on, God would call Himself *I am the God of Abraham.*

Like Paul, I am confident that He who began the good work in you will carry it on to completion. (Ph 1:6) You are a pilgrim in process. And the process, not just the completion, is part of the promise.

### **For further study on Pilgrims in Process: 1 Peter 1:1; 1:17; 2:11**

(I memorized 1 Peter last year I call it the Pilgrim Epistle for Hopelessly Hopeful Homeless Heirs.)

Lord, You were the ultimate Pilgrim. You knew your journey was a pilgrimage of pain, yet it was the joy ahead of You that gave You the endurance to go all the way for me. No one could ever understand You, but You understand me infinitely. Everyone abandoned You, but you never abandon me. You left home to do Your Father's will. So have I. Lord, I want to know You in this journey you've sent me on. I want to know You as only a pilgrim can know You. Lead me. Show me the way. Show me Your heart. Change my heart, O God, that I may be a pilgrim with You. Amen.

**Remember, we love you and are praying for you continually. Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Adios, Ron & Val**

We see The Invisible, embrace The Unapproachable, declare The Unexplainable, are changed by The Immutable, run after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. This is the Pilgrim in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.