

## Progressive Commitment 4076

*Abraham is the “Father of all them that believe”* (see Romans 4:11–12), and we are expected to walk in the steps of his faith. Following are five main steps of Abraham’s walk with God.

### I. Step 1: Leaving Ur

- A. Gen. 11:31–32; 12:1–4—The Lord told Abram to leave three things:
  - 1. His country
  - 2. His father’s house
  - 3. His kindred
- B. Heb. 11:8—In this first step of faith he only left one: *his country*. Therefore, he progressed only halfway to the land of his promised inheritance.

### II. Step 2: Leaving Harran

- A. Gen. 12:4–5; Acts 7:4—Through his father’s death, Abram was able to make the second release, from *his father’s house*.
- B. But he still had *his kindred*, Lot, with him.

### III. Step 3: Separating From Lot

- A. Gen. 13:5–7—The Lord permitted circumstances to arise which necessitated the next release: Abram let Lot go.
- B. In Hebrew “Lot” means “a veil.” As long as Lot was with him, Abram could not see his inheritance even though he was in it.
- C. After Lot departed, God told Abram that he could now look at his inheritance and walk up and down in it.

### IV. Step 4: Letting Ishmael Go

- A. Gen. 21:9–14—Ishmael should never have been a part of Abraham’s household. He was the product of Abraham’s own effort, and had to be released in order for God to fulfill His promise to Abraham through Isaac, the heir brought forth by God.
- B. This gives us a pattern for dealing with our mistakes. We must acknowledge frankly that we have made a mistake, and we must accept God’s solution, even though it may be radical and painful.
- C. If Abraham had not released Ishmael, he could not have progressed any further in his walk with God. *This is one common reason why Christians are not able to go all the way with God.*

### V. Step 5: Offering Up Isaac

- A. Gen. 22:1–3, 10–18; Heb. 6:13–18—Isaac was the “miracle child” given by God.
- B. But God’s highest will for both Abraham and Isaac could not be fulfilled until Abraham had released Isaac back to God.
- C. After that, God released His fullest blessing on Abraham, and committed Himself to multiply Isaac. *God can only multiply that which we give back to Him.*

### VI. New Testament Commentary

- A. Jas. 2:20–23—This final act of release brought Abraham’s faith to fulfillment, and earned him the title, “the friend of God.” The same principle applies to all of

us.

- B.** 2 Tim. 1:12—The secret of Paul’s victorious faith, in totally adverse circumstances, was the same as that of Abraham: *commitment*.

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