

Snapshots of Transformation - Abraham

Peoples Church – Midweek

May 25, 2016

“God tested Abraham’s faith and obedience.” **Genesis 21:1**

“...you will always have your trials but, when they come, try to treat them as a happy privilege ...don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance.” **James 1:2-3**

1. We Must Live With **CONFIDENCE**.

“Abraham!” God called “Take your son, your only son – yes, Isaac, whom you love so much — and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering...” **Genesis 22:1-2**

“The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son Isaac. Then he chopped wood to build a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place where God had told him to go.” **Genesis 22:3**

Result: PERSPECTIVE.

“As the two of them went on together, Isaac said, ‘Father? We have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?’ Abraham answered, ‘God will provide a lamb, my son.’ **Genesis 22:6-8**

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” **Hebrews 11:6**

2. We Must Look For **DIRECTION**.

“On the third day of the journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.” **Genesis 22:4**

Result: GUIDANCE.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.” **Psalms 119:105**

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.” **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

3. We Must Work To **FOCUS**.

“When they arrived at the place where God had told Abraham to go, he built an altar and placed the wood on it. Then he tied Isaac up and laid him on the altar over the wood. And Abraham took the knife and lifted it up to kill his son as a sacrifice to the Lord.” **Genesis 22:9-10**

Result: PEACE.

“If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:7**

“At that moment the angel of the Lord shouted to him from heaven... ‘Lay down the knife. Do not hurt the boy in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld even your beloved son from me.’ ... This is what the Lord says: ‘Because you have obeyed Me and have not withheld even your beloved son, I swear by My own self that I will bless you richly... all because you have obeyed Me.’” **Genesis 22:1-18**

God USES Tests & ALLOWS Trials for our Spiritual Formation

“It is clear, then, that God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was not based on obedience to God’s law, but on the new relationship with God that comes by faith...Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.” **Romans 4:13, 20**

7172 N. Cedar Ave, Fresno, CA 93720 || 559-298-8001 x310
Brent Deffenbacher, Family Life Pastor
Email: BrentD@peopleschurch.org