

Great Faith – Abraham pt. 4

(Genesis 22:1-18 nlt)

22 Sometime later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.” ²“Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.” ³The 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 for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵“Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.” ⁶So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, ⁷Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?” ⁸“God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. ⁹When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!”

¹²“Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” ¹³Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.” ¹⁵Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. ¹⁶“This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that ¹⁷I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants^[a] beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. ¹⁸And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

- Gods promise for Abraham never changed since the moment he called him
- Time after time Abraham proved he was faithful and because of his faith it was counted for him as righteousness
- God fulfilled his promise and gave Sarah his promise child Issac.
- Years have passed, and now God was about to test his faith
- There are 2 things I want to point out when God speaks to Abraham again.

1. God was very Intentional to point out on how much Isaac meant to Abraham. Making his request to sacrifice him a very difficult choice to make

“your only son, Isaac whom you love so much”

2. God was very specific on where to sacrifice him

“Go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”

- **Moriah** – Seen by Yahweh, Chosen by Yahweh or God is my teacher
Yahweh – He is, He causes to become or He brings into existence
- In the first few chapters in the book of Leviticus, there are details of offerings the people were to bring to the bring to the tabernacle. And there was 5 basic offerings that could be made

The burnt offering

The grain/meat offering

The peace offering

The sin offering

The trespass offering

- God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering which means unlike other sacrifices, the entire animal was burned on the alter, symbolizing complete surrender and a gift fully given to God

(Leviticus 1:1-9 nlt)

1 The Lord called to Moses from the Tabernacle^[a] and said to him, 2 “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you present an animal as an offering to the Lord, you may take it from your herd of cattle or your flock of sheep and goats. 3 “If the animal you present as a burnt offering is from the herd, it must be a male with no defects. Bring it to the entrance of the Tabernacle so you^[b] may be accepted by the Lord. 4 Lay your hand on the animal’s head, and the Lord will accept its death in your place to purify you, making you right with him.^[c] 5 Then slaughter the young bull in the Lord’s presence, and Aaron’s sons, the priests, will present the animal’s blood by splattering it against all sides of the altar that stands at the entrance to the Tabernacle. 6 Then skin the animal and cut it into pieces. 7 The sons of Aaron the priest will build a wood fire on the altar. 8 They will arrange the pieces of the offering, including the head and fat, on the wood burning on the altar. 9 But the internal organs and the legs must first be washed with water. Then the priest will burn the entire sacrifice on the altar as a burnt offering. It is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

- God wanted everything, all of the promise not some of it
- The bible says on verse 3

“3 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 for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about.

- Abraham didn't wait and instead he saddled his donkey, took 2 of his servants with, along with Isaac and chopped the wood for the burnt offering himself and headed out to the place God had told him
- The Bible says on verse 4
“⁴On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.”
- So, it was a 3-day journey which meant Abraham had plenty of time to change his mind
- 1 thing stood out to me, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance
- Why was Abraham looking down to begin with? And if he was looking down then he must be looking at his steps and if he was looking at his steps, he was watching his walk
- What's your walk look like?

(Proverbs 20:24 nlt)

“The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?”

- We can make our plans, but the Lord directs our steps

(Proverbs 16:9 nlt)

“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”

- Remember Moriah means God is my teacher. So God will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go

(Psalms 32:8 nkjv)

**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will guide you with My eye.”**

- To the Godly the Lord delights in every detail of their lives

(Psalms 37:23 nlt)

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

- I believe Abraham was looking down on the ground to remind himself of Gods promise every step he took. That God will make him a great nation, that he will have many descendent too numerous to count and that God is giving him that Land
- Abraham tells his servants to wait there because Isaac and him are going to the mountain to worship
- Abraham true intention was to sacrifice. But he called it worship and told them they would be back. Implying that both would be back

^{verse 5} **“Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”**

- Abraham was speaking faith, remember there is power in our tongue to speak life or death
- Abraham puts the wood on Isaac shoulders and that make that journey up the mountain.

- No one knows exactly how old Isaac was at that time but Jewish tradition says he was 37 years old. Sarah was 90 when she had him and died shortly after this event at 127 years old
- Josephus the first-century historian recorded Isaac at 25 years old
- Christian commentators suggest his age was 33 years old to create a parallel between Isaac and Jesus
- But all we know is that he was strong enough to carry the wood up a mountain which means he was old enough
- Abraham never wavered in believing God and never stopped speaking faith.
- When Isaac asked where the sacrifice was, he kept saying the Lord will provide
- Isaac also had to be obedient to his father's instruction and trust in him too, to allow Abraham to tie him up and lay him on the altar and see the knife being raised
- Abraham's faith was tested, not to see how much he loved the Lord but to see how much he feared the Lord.

Verse 10

¹⁰ And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!” ¹² “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” ¹³ Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

- How much do you fear the Lord?
- For by grace, you have been saved through faith. So, our salvation come by faith but our salvation is worked out by fear and trembling

(Philippians 2:12-13 nkjv)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

(Proverbs 9:10 nlt)

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

- If the fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom, then we should hate evil

(Proverbs 8:12-16 nlt)

“I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment. ¹³ All who fear the Lord will hate evil.

Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.

¹⁴ Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine. ¹⁵ Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just decrees. ¹⁶ Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments.[†]

- Abraham was called a friend of God. And David a man after Gods own heart says the Lord is a friend to those who fear him

(Psalms 25:13-14 nlt)

Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they should choose. ¹³ They will live in prosperity, and their children will inherit the land. ¹⁴ The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.

- Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived said it is our duty to fear God and obey his commands

(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 nlt)

¹³ That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty. ¹⁴ God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.