

## How Does Your Faith Lead to Obedience?



In Genesis 15, God promised Abraham a son. At that time, he and his wife Sarah were childless. God also promised that all the land around Abraham would be given to his children. That was quite a promise, especially since Abraham was over 75 years old. Isaac, Abraham's son, was born when Abraham was 100. That was a long time to wait. In Romans we read, "Yet he [Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

God gave Abraham a promise and he believed that God would do it. Even more impressive was when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. Isaac was a teenager then and a blessing to both parents. In Genesis 22, here is what God said: "'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac."

Let's reflect on that. God asked Abraham to kill his son as a sacrifice. The very son that God promised him. Abraham leaves the next day. That is amazing faith.

Let's read on. Abraham, Isaac and the servants travel to Moriah. As they were at the foot of the mountain where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac, we read, "Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.'" Did you get that? Abraham told his servants that he was going to go up the mountain, worship God, and come back WITH Isaac. Wait. Wasn't Abraham going up there to sacrifice his son? Did we miss something?

No. Abraham was "fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." We don't know what Abraham was thinking, but he certainly believed that Isaac was the promised son. If he killed him, God had the power to resurrect him.

We know the rest of the story. As Abraham raises the knife to sacrifice his son, God tells him to stop and provides a ram to sacrifice.

In Psalm 119:60 it says, "I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments." In your growth group, take time to reflect on Abraham's story and discuss these questions:

- How does your faith influence your obedience?
- How do you strengthen your ability to "not delay" in keeping God's commands? Are there scripture passages that can help you do that?
- Are there situations or circumstances where you find it difficult to obey God's commands? How do you overcome that difficulty?
- What ways can you encourage others to be obedient? Are there associated scripture passages?