

Submission Leads to Progression

Genesis 22:1-3, 15-18

Vs. 1-3 “Some time later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.” “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.” 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.

Vs. 15-18: Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. “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 I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

We have an internal rebellion against submission.

1. Submission leads to progression, not oppression

Change your mindset: *You are not giving up your power, you are gaining it.*

Luke 9:23-25 - “Whoever wants to be my disciple, must take up their cross and follow me. Whoever wants to save their life must lose it.”

Genesis 3: 1-6 - The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

2. Choose Trust Over Control

Genesis 22: “God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” - Abraham trusted God would provide.

Contrast Genesis 3: God set a boundary for Eve in the garden and she tested the limits; we often test the limits or question God's character or methods.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 - Cursed is the one who trusts in man and draws strength from mere flesh...they will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the streams. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

We serve a God who is so much greater than we can understand.

- We have a problem with what we cannot understand.
- When we measure it, we feel we can understand it and therefore we can control it.

The more you know someone and their character the easier it is to trust them.

- Read His Word
- Journal Prayers
- Practice Gratitude

3. Choose Stewardship Over Ownership

Often our issues come from exerting influence over someone or something that we do not actually possess.

This happens with:

- Possessions
- Relationships
- Our physical bodies
- Environments/Circumstances

Psalms 24:1-2 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths."

Job 1:21 - The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"

Lay it down