



Get Over Yourself Part 4

In You and Through You

Scripture Readings

Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV)

Promises to Abram

(Acts 7:2-5)

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,

From your family

And from your father's house,

To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 22:15-18 (NKJV)

15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Introduction

- In part 1 we looked at how God asks us to deny ourselves
- In part 2 we looked at what God does in spite of us
- In part 3 we looked at what God does beyond us
- Today we explore what God does IN and THRU us.

If you notice, the first 3 parts of this series explore what God does external to us; sometimes without our knowledge, without our input, and despite our interference.

- We saw it with Elisha's servant last week
 - being unaware of the presence of angels
- We saw it with Job
 - being unaware of the spiritual contentions over his faithfulness to God.
- And we also saw it with Peter
 - being unaware that Satan was using him to try and interfere with what God was doing

There are times in our faith experience with God when we are unaware of what God is up to and we don't get a clue until some time has passed and some things have transpired. Sometimes, God keeps us in the dark. William Cowper penned the lyrics to the Hymn 'God Moves in a Mysterious Way.'

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

— *William Cowper (1773)*

With all the things that God plans and executes outside of us, the ways of God also teach us that there are things that God reveals to us and wants us to know about them. He reveals these things to those who He considers “friends.”

In You

Genesis 12:1-3

Abram—“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.
2 I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

In order to understand the depth of this text, we’re going to translate a part of this to open our eyes to the depth of God’s conversation with Abram.

- Abram—high father; exalted father (who has no children yet)
 - leave your father’s house and follow Me to an unknown place
 - I will make you a great nation
 - I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you

- And IN you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

I want to zero in on the word “in.” The word “in” is situational, it’s a location, a preposition. In English class, we learned that “prepositions” showed the “position of things.”

In — inside or within something

On — positioned upon something

Under — beneath something

Over — above/across something

Above — at a higher level

Notice God didn’t say to Abraham that “on you” all the families of the earth shall be blessed. He didn’t say “under you.” God was specific with the preposition He used. [Laying inside of you is something that I want to use to bless ALL of the families of the earth with]. And this childless man, who was named a ‘high father’ ‘believed God’ when he heard it.

Romans 4:3 (NKJV)

3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

What was in Abram was more than just “potential” more than just “good ideas;” it was more than just his father’s legacy. What was in Abraham was the faith to obey and that obedience had the seed of conception to the promise. Isaac, his promised son was more than the culmination of DNA. He was was the manifestation of promise to Abram and Sarah.

“IN you all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”

What a pronouncement to receive and what faith it took to move his entire life based on no reward—but a promise where the true recipients would be “all the families of the earth.”. The promise was indeed to Abram, but the lasting recipients was not Abram and his generation—it was us.

The Sacrifice

I believe that there is a reward for the person who obeys God. I believe that there is a blessing that comes to them. But many times God places something “IN you” that’s not “FOR you.”

Abraham didn’t realize that the plan of God went beyond just having a son.

His near-sightedness led him and Sarah to go along with a plan to have a son through a servant girl—Hagar. And another son was born—Ishmael.

Sometimes when we interpret the plan of God as “for US”

- we distort the instructions we receive
- we make a logical decision instead of a spiritual one

- we presume what God meant instead of allowing Him to show us
- we open the door to deeper levels of conflict and contentions that are not easily quelled.

God chose to test Abraham and asked him to sacrifice Isaac, "his only son."

Genesis 22:2 (NKJV)

2 Then He said, "Take now 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."

Did God forget about Ishmael? No but Ishmael wasn't the promised one to Abram and Sarai. There was no covenant preceding Hagar and Abraham. That was man's arrangement—not God's. God still blessed Ishmael and made provisions for Ishmael but said "My Covenant is with Isaac." God will always fulfill His promises and watch faithfully over HIS Word to perform it. The miracle was for this 100 year old man and his 90 year old wife who laughed and yet received the promised son—Isaac!

And God tests Abraham to give up the "only way" that Abram could become "Abraham" "the father of many nations." and Abraham is beginning to understand now that God's promises were not about his immediate reward of a son. And if Isaac were indeed to die, God would have a plan to make sure His Word comes to pass.

Genesis 22:15-18 (NKJV)

15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

- God repeats in Gen 22:18 what He said in Genesis 12:1-3 and adds the words "because."
- Because you didn't withhold Isaac
- Because you didn't flinch
- Because you put your feelings aside
- Because you obeyed Me faithfully

Through You

Watch how you respond to the tests God puts you through. It reveals what's IN you. And if God can trust you to be obedient to what He put IN you He will surely fulfill what He wants to do THROUGH you.

The Bible ties our faith in the Lord Jesus directly back to Abram's faith in God when he left what he knew, and Abraham's faith in God when he was willing to let go of Isaac. His obedience both times revealed what was IN him.

Isaac was a type of Christ in that his test-run “almost sacrifice” would become a foreshadow of the actual sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Conclusion - Through Christ

We’ve learned that God puts something IN us in order to do something THROUGH us. On some level we’ve may have already accepted that even without reading Abraham’s story. But his story grounds the process of “In and Through” in Faith and Obedience. How do we now see what’s grounded and see it fulfilled? We fully commit it to Jesus!

Galatians 3:7-9 (NKJV)

7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Galatians 3:14 (NKJV)

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.

Christ is identified as the Seed of Abraham because He is the promised descendant that would fulfill God’s Word—all nations of the Earth shall be blessed.

The difficulties we face are often contentious because of what God placed in us and what He wants to do through us. How do we see the completion of His will and plan? We see it done through Christ.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.