

Genesis, part 52 – The Sacrifice of Isaac, part 1: Absolute Surrender

“And the Word of God kept spreading; and the number of disciples in Jerusalem continued to increase **greatly**, and even a great number of the [Jewish] priests were becoming obedient to the faith.” Acts 6:7

“You see, how many **tens of thousands** [Greek: *myriados*] of Jews [in Jerusalem] have believed.” Acts 21:20

The believers in Jerusalem had such a massive impact because they had **massive spiritual lives**.

“Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what He had **promised**. And Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, **at the very time** God had **promised**.” Genesis 21:1-2

“Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here I am,’” Genesis 22:1

“And God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah; sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.’” Genesis 22:2

“Do not give any of your children to be passed through the fire to Molech . . . I am the LORD.” Leviticus 18:21

What God was asking of Abraham was not uncommon in Abraham’s day – but to have the true and holy God of the universe ask this must have left Abraham’s mind spinning.

“**Early** the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. And when he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place the LORD had told him about.” Genesis 22:3

“On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then he said to his servants, ‘Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. **We** will worship and then **we** will come back to you.’” Genesis 22:4-5

“So Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And as the two of them went up, Isaac spoke up and said to Abraham, ‘Father?’ ‘Yes, my son?’ Abraham replied. ‘The fire and the wood are here,’ Isaac said, ‘but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’” Genesis 22:6-7

“Abraham answered, ‘**God Himself will provide** the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’ And the two of them went on together.” Genesis 22:8

“And when they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.” Genesis 22:9

“Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.” Genesis 22:10

“But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, saying, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ He said. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son.” Genesis 22:11-12

“And Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.” Genesis 22:13

“So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide** [*Jehovah Jireh*].” Genesis 22:14a

“Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time and said, ‘I swear by Myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son from Me, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore . . . and through your offspring [the Lord Jesus Christ] all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed Me.’”

Genesis 22:15-18

“Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.” Genesis 22:19

SO WHAT?

Andrew Murray, *Absolute Surrender*

“In Scotland once, as a young man, I was in a company of people where we were talking about the condition of Christ's church.”

“There was in our company an older, godly gentleman and I asked him what he would say was the greatest need of the Church and God's people.”

“He replied very quietly and simply: '**Absolute surrender** to God is the one thing.’”

“The words struck me as never before – that the condition for obtaining God's full blessing is **absolute surrender** to Him.”

“God is looking for those who will say, ‘Oh, God, I accept Your terms. Lord, anything for Thee.’”

“If our hearts are willing to do this, there is no end to what God will do for us and the blessing He will bestow.”

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9a

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as **living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God . . .” Romans 12:1

Question: “In asking us as followers of Christ to become 'living sacrifices' – how much of us is God asking for?”

Answer: “All of us!”

“And Ben-Hadad sent messengers to Ahab and said, ‘Your silver and your gold are mine, and the best of your wives and children also are mine.’” 1 Kings 20:2

“Then Ahab said, ‘It is as you say, my lord. I am yours and all that I have is yours.’” 1 Kings 20:4

This is **absolute surrender**: “Lord, I am Yours and all that I have is Yours.”

Jimmy Draper: “Lord, the answer is ‘YES’ – now what was the question?”

Absolute surrender is component #1 of a massive spiritual life!

God never promises us that, when we give Him **absolute surrender**, He will give us “peaches and cream.”

Believers who do this **must understand**, that our reason for **absolute surrender** cannot be to get material blessings or creature comforts from God.

Our reason **must be** because we want God to wring out of us the greatest amount of honor and glory for Jesus possible – even if it means that God has to take us through some deep water in order to do it.

“Will you release your child to the will of God, whatever that may be, without bitterness or resistance?”

I believe that God wanted to take McLean Bible Church to the place where it is today (and beyond) – but He couldn't do it with me the way I was 22 years ago.

“Lon, I can make you a force for Me, but it's only going to work if you're 100% serious about **absolute surrender** – because I'm going to have to crush you to do it!”

If Brenda and I had never made that **absolute surrender commitment to God** – or if we had reneged on it part way through – we nor McLean Bible Church would be where we are today.

My Christian friend: God's got great things He wants to do in and through your life too – but He can't do it – and He won't do it – until you give Him **absolute surrender** and then stick with it by His grace, no matter what God sends your way or asks of you.

Absolute surrender is for followers of Christ who want God to:

- Use them
- Honor them
- Maximize His glory through them more than they want anything – and who are willing to pay **any price** to see this happen!