

Faith and Deeds Part 15

“20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:20-24 KJV)

We will continue in this message to study the faith and the deeds of Abraham as God was leading him. We will read *Genesis 22*, and explain and observe how Abraham obeyed God and walked with deeds to fulfill the call of God in his life.

“1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.” (Genesis 22:1 KJV) Abraham here responded immediately to God when He called him saying, ***“here I am.”*** God will give you test in life to see if you will obey Him or not. God also will see if you will respond to Him immediately as Abraham did or not. Here Abraham was tested by God, and let us see how he responded.

“2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” (Genesis 22:2 KJV) God asked Abraham to give his only son Isaac whom he loved to God as a burnt offering. Why God said, ***“thine only son Isaac”***? Not because Abraham sent away Ishmael from him, but Isaac is the only lawful son to Abraham from his legitimate wife, Sarah, being the first wife. God will ask you to give Him the very thing that you love most in order to test your faith to see whether you will obey Him or not. God will test you to see if you love Him or you love more what He gave to you.

“3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.” (Genesis 22:3 KJV) Abraham executed what God asked him to do in the morning of the next day. Early he woke up to obey God. He did not delay in obeying because he was aware that delayed obedience is disobedience. Faith and deeds toward God require us to be diligent in our obedience to God. Abraham took two men with him in his journey, he took his son, prepared the wood for the burnt offering and went toward the place that God asked him to sacrifice his son in the land of Moriah in the same place that God offered His son Jesus Christ to die for us on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. In the same way we need to arrange everything for the mission trip that we need to accomplish to God.

“4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.” (Genesis 22:4 KJV) Abraham was a man above hundred years old but he travelled three days journey in order to obey God. In order to obey God we need not only to offer what God wants from us, but we need also to travel and reach certain places carrying certain things that we need to prepare and bring with us, and spend on the journey to achieve what God wants us to achieve for Him.

“5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.” (Genesis 22:5 KJV) Abraham did not take with him the two young men to the place of worship, most likely he was afraid that they may hinder him to offer Isaac his son as a burnt offering. In certain times you need to have wisdom and not to disclose certain things in front of certain people who would hinder you from obeying God.

“6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.” (Genesis 22:6) Isaac here was not a small boy but at least a young teen that he can carry the wood of the burnt offering on his back. In the same way we need to train our children and youth to carry certain responsibilities while they are still young to experience what is life.

“7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7 KJV) Isaac was aware of what is going on and asked his father where the burnt offering is, for he was aware that his father although loves him, but since he loves God more, he would finally obey and do what God wants him to do. We need to show our children that we love them, but we need also to show them that we love God more than they.

“8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.” (Genesis 22:8 KJV) Abraham answered Isaac with faith that God will provide, for he was willing to offer his son Isaac, but he was also fully aware that God can raise up Isaac from the dead as we can read here, ***“17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” (Hebrews 11:17-19 KJV)*** In the same way it is good to have a Godly discussion with our children about matters of faith and the things that are pertain to God in our lives and ministries and how we obey God trusting Him that He will provide all our needs.

“9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.” (Genesis 22:9 KJV) Abraham built an altar in the place that God had told him to offer his son Isaac. That is similar to the altar of a church meeting. Although there were no worship songs, no musical instruments, neither loudspeakers nor sound system nor hymn books, and no message preached, but we can see two people who came and were willing wholeheartedly to obey God. Isaac was willing to submit to what his father did to him because he was aware that his father was obeying God. Indeed faith, deeds and actions manifesting the true faith of father and son, Abraham and Isaac on God. In the same way we as church when we come to worship God we come wholeheartedly to obey God and to do His will.

“10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.” (Genesis 22:10 KJV) Abraham was not hindered with emotions, no fear was in his heart, and was not bothered of what he will tell to the people, and what he will tell even to his wife Sarah, Isaac’s mother, because he was only concerned to obey God and to please Him. In the same way we need to be concerned about God and how to please Him rather than concerned about the

peoples' opinions about us of what we are doing. We can also observe how Isaac responded and cooperated with his father, and was willing to be offered as a burnt offering to please God in obedience to His command to his father Abraham. **In the same way we need to train our children and disciples and raise them in the fear of God that they will work with us to obey God and implement His will and serve Him in the way that He wants us to do and act that His purposes to be accomplished.**

“11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.” (Genesis 22:11 KJV) God when saw the faith and the willingness of Abraham to obey Him, and as we read in James, ***“21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?” (James 2:22 KJV)*** He called to Abraham in order to stop him from doing it. This particular work justified Abraham with work before God. Therefore here, God called him in order to stop him as we read in the next verse, ***“12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.” (Genesis 22:12 KJV)*** God stopped him because He saw how Abraham feared God up to the point that he did not withhold to offer his son Isaac to Him. Two times here in this passage Abraham said to God ***“Here am I”***, the first time when He was called to obey and the second time when he received God's approval and God's blessings. **Therefore, if we know how to obey God then we will receive His blessings to us.**

“13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.” (Genesis 22:13 KJV) God provided the ram for the burnt offering as Abraham assured his son that God will provide. **God surely will provide for us after we obey Him and do exactly what He is instructed us to do.** ***“14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.” (Genesis 22:14 KJV)*** * Truly God shall provide for His people and on time when they are diligent to obey Him. * The lamb represents the Lord Jesus Christ that He died on the cross for our sins. The altar and the wood that Isaac was bound on represent the teaching and the discipline that God wants us to abide in and to follow and to apply in our lives and in the lives of our children. The fire is the Holy Spirit and the knife is the Word of God that is sharper than double edged sword that God wants us to apply in our lives and ministries.

“15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” (Genesis 22:15-18 KJV) With what Abraham did, the Lord confirmed His covenant with him, that He will bless him, multiply him abundantly, give him the victory over his enemies, and all the nations will be blessed through him. **In the same way as we diligently obey God and walk in His ways and do His will, then He will confirm His covenant with us, assure us about our salvation, bless us, multiply us profoundly, give us the victory over our enemies and all nations and people around us shall be blessed through our lives and the life of His church.**

My dear and beloved: Let us now come to the Lord in repentance and check ourselves with what we studied and see if our actions and deeds go along our faith. Are you diligent to obey God and without delay? Are you willing to give God whatever things that you love? Do you love God more than anything? Are you willing to discipline yourself, your children and those who are under your care? Do you fear God and fear His Word?

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that teaches me how to obey and apply your will and to worship you in the Spirit and truth. Lord thank you for all the admonitions and the reminders that I received in this message of what I need to do towards you, to accomplish your will, and how to raise up my children in the fears of you and to train them the way you wants so they will continue to serve you and accomplish your plans and will.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your emotions and feelings that push you to do things against the will of God and His instruction to you. Confess and renounce your delayed obedience and your non willingness to serve God wholeheartedly. Confess and renounce your lack of full trust in God, your laziness, and your non willingness to spend and suffer for Christ in order to obey Him. Confess your lack of disciplining your children.

Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____ .

Lord I commit myself to obey your instruction to me. Lord I am willing to offer you what you had asked of me _____. Lord I commit myself to walk in your ways and to do your will in full. Lord I commit myself to discipline my children and raise them in the fears of you. Lord I commit myself to teach them your Word and how to implement your will in their lives and to train them to serve you.

Lord I ask you to help me and provide for me the following need _____ as I decided to obey you.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who responded to the message that we received today from you and who are willing to give to you what you asked of them to give. Lord help them and guide them and provide their needs so they will continue to serve you and do your will.

Lord as a church we thank you for the teaching that we received from you that teaches us how to worship you and serve you and how to discipline our children and train them according to your will. Lord we trust you that you are Jehovah Jireh who will provide all our needs so that we will continue to serve you and accomplish your mission work to go and make disciples baptizing in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord lead us to go and evangelize making new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Faith and Deeds Part 15. James 2:20-24. Genesis 22:1-18. Hebrew 11:17-19.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.