

How to Obey God

“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. 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. 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. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 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. 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. 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? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 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. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 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. 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. 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. 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. 19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.” (Genesis 22:1-19 KJV)

* Many they wish and they like to obey God but when it comes to the application then they fail to obey the LORD and they fail to do His commands. * From the life of Abraham we can learn certain lessons to enable us to obey God and walk in His ways.

Abraham obeyed God because he was able to do the following:

1. Abraham controlled his emotions: God asked Abraham to offer his one and only son Isaac. Abraham was able to obey God because He was able to control his emotions. Why many people can't be able to obey God because they cannot control their emotions and feelings. When we give way to our hearts to rule, then we are hindered from obeying the Lord. When we allow our hearts to rule, then we will start to love those near relations to us more than God and more than the commands of Jesus and in such we would be unworthy of Him, *“37 He that*

loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37 KJV) To follow God you need to keep your emotions and feelings aside because many times God would ask you to favor Him over your wife, your husband, your parents, your children and your siblings and therefore you need to think with your mind so you can obey, but if you give way to your heart to think and decide then you are lost.

The heart's emotion is very deceiving, *“9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9 KJV)* In one occasion the Lord was speaking to His disciples about what He was going to suffer, *“21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.” (Matthew 16:21 KJV)* Peter reacted to what the Lord was speaking, *“22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.” (Matthew 16:22 KJV)* Peter was ruled with his emotions and had allowed his heart to rule over his life instead of his mind. This emotional love is foolishness in the eyes of God. Therefore the Lord rebuked Peter for what he did, *“23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” (Matthew 16:23 KJV)* When Peter gave way for his heart and emotions to rule then he gave way to Satan to enter his heart and life, and therefore the Lord Jesus rebuked him and casted Satan out from his way and from the life of Peter. When you entertain your emotions and you allow them to rule over your life then you are giving foothold for Satan to enter and destroy your life. If we yield ourselves to our emotions and allow our hearts to rule over us then we cannot obey God. Abraham was able to obey God in offering his son Isaac because he controlled his heart and gave the full control to his mind to obey God's Word and commands.

2. Abraham spent efforts: When God instructed Abraham to offer Isaac he was in his old age. Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old. Now Isaac was a big boy that he understands lot of things and he was carrying the wood and climbing the mountain with his father. So he was by now not less that 110-115 years in age. But he was diligent to obey God's commands. He was not lazy; he himself cut the wood, travelled three days and climbed the mountain to reach the place that God asked him to reach in order to offer Isaac. Laziness and delaying hinder many from obeying God. Don't be as those people, but take the good example of Abraham. Therefore be diligent and obey God immediately and do not allow delay obedience, laziness and complacency hinder you from receiving the full blessings of God. *“4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Proverbs 13:4 KJV)* Here we are taught that only diligent works can satisfy our needs.

3. Abraham spent material things: The two servants that accompanied Abraham, the knife, the fire and the expenses of food for three days journey were all expenditure Abraham needed to shoulder. * Many people when it comes to expenses they don't want to spend to maintain their service and their ministry unto God. * That is why we need to save our money and keep aside the fifth of our earning, so that over the years we will have the enough capital that when we are called to go to serve God or be in full time ministry, then we can respond to the call of God and use our saving to furnish our ministerial needs. As well as you must be ready to give to God and spend from your own money and treasures when God is calling you to give Him what He

asked you to give for God loves the cheerful giver, “7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV) When the Scripture declares that God loves the cheerful giver, then equally it means also God hates those who are not willing to give Him what is due for Him from tithes, offerings, firstfruits, vows, and whatever needed and required to let the ministry to continue.

4. Abraham exercised his faith: Through Isaac Abraham would have descendants, but when God asked him to offer him to Him, he reasoned that God can raise up Isaac from death, “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) Faith is needed to obey God’s commands. Faith needed to be expressed in deeds. Certain times our faith is tested and we are required to express our faith through deeds. “14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” (James 2:14-18 KJV)

5. Abraham exercised his authority: As a leader for his family Abraham was a good husband and father. He was able to train his wife and child to obey God’s commands and Word. * So here we learn to use our authority to train the people under our care to obey God’s Word and commands so we will be able to obey God whenever He calls us. * Many they fail to obey God because they cannot convey God’s discipline to the people whom the Lord had placed under their care.

True worshippers of God are not only true givers but they made themselves ready to give what He is asking them to give. Here Abraham when God told him to offer his son Isaac, his mind was ready to obey God and to do and to give Him what He had asked him to give. Abraham also had made his wife ready to obey God, for we never read that Sarah objected, opposed or stopped Abraham from offering Isaac. Abraham also had made his son Isaac ready to obey what God had asked him to do for we saw that when Abraham bound his son on the wood and took the knife to slay him we did not read that Isaac did object, opposed Abraham’s action or ran away. So not only Abraham was willing and ready to obey but as well as his wife and his son were trained to obey and to give to God what He was asking from them to give. So we can understand now in order for us to be true givers we need not only to be willing and ready to give but also to prepare the immediate people who are with us to be ready to give what God had asked us to give.

Now the question here is this: If you had trained your family, but they are not willing to give what God wants them to give, and if they are not willing to do what God wants them to do, or they are not willing to live the style of life that He wants to live, then what you need to do or how you will face such a situation? This is the answer: You need to make it clear to them that you will not compromise and go along with them, but you will continue to obey God, do what He asks you to do and live the style of life that He wants you to live.

6. Abraham exercised wisdom: “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 when reached the place did not take the young men who were with him to the place of worship, because they may stop him from doing such; they may not understand or they may not agree with him, and they may react and stop him from doing such. Therefore he worked it out to do it without them so he can do exactly and precisely what God was asking him to do. * If Abraham was contemporary to our time today and God would ask him to offer Isaac as burnt offering unto Him, and people would know about what he was about to do, then definitely they would call the police to arrest him to save Isaac from his hand; and they would either put him in jail and refer him to court or send him for psychiatric institute to be examined to find out if he has madness. * In the same way for us, in certain ministries and services unto God we need to exclude and put aside certain people from knowing and interfering of what we are doing, because they may not understand what we are doing, and they may react and so they will criticize us, threaten us and they may even stop us from the mission and the task that God had asked us to do, and even more than that they may scandal us and put us into troubles with other people and even with the police and with the government authorities.

7. Isaac was willing to face the physical pain and even to be slaughtered by his own father: Obeying it means and includes the willingness to receive the pain and the suffering in our physical bodies for the sake of God. God loved the world and He showed His love to us by sending His own Son; and Jesus Christ God’s Son showed His love to God the Father when He did His will and accepted the death on the cross. Jesus showed His love for us when He suffered the agonizing pain of crucifixion and paid the prize of our sins on the cross. Jesus Christ showed His commitment by what He gave, and this is how commitment and love measured by how much you give and obey to do. * From the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the pain of the crucifixion that He passed through, and from the willingness of Isaac to be slaughtered by his own father we can see that to obey God we need to be willing to suffer the physical pain on our bodies. * To obey God we might be also needed to be persecuted and the suffering of persecution could be verbal through cruel mocking and insults, or of material losses or the physical pain, body hurts, body losses, incapacitations and even death, which certain time may occur, and God wants us to be willing to offer all of such to Him as Jesus did, “36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;” (Hebrews 11:36-37 KJV)

My dear and beloved: “4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4 KJV) Therefore let us learn from the Scripture that we had studied how to obey God and how to do His will, as we commit ourselves wholeheartedly to serve Him and do the things that please Him in observing the following:

1. We ought to control our emotions and not to allow our hearts to lead our life, but instead we need to use our minds.
2. We ought to be ready to spent physical efforts and toil to obey God.
3. We ought to be ready to spent material things to obey God.

4. *We ought to exercise faith to obey God.*
5. *We ought to exercise our authority and train the people with us especially our family members and make them ready to obey God.*
6. *We ought to exercise wisdom and exclude certain people who would hinder us from obeying God.*
7. *We ought to be willing to face the physical pain and the suffering in our physical bodies in facing persecution in order to obey God.*

Christ may come at any time, therefore we need to be ready to obey and be doers of all what God had asked us to do, so when Christ comes we are ready to go with Him.

Let us pray

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that showed me clearly the way to obey. Lord thank you for all the material blessings that comes from you and for all the spiritual gifts that you gave to me. Lord thank you for the ministry that you entrusted to me to do for you. Lord thank you for the teaching we received in this message and thank you for all what we had received from corrections, rebukes and admonishments.*

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your emotions and your non willingness to put your heart and your feelings aside to go in life as God wanting you to go through. Repent of your non willingness to give to God what he asked you to give to Him. Repent of your non willingness to give your tithes, offerings and your firstfruits unto God. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of full trust in God. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and to get persecuted for Him. Repent of your non willingness to receive pain, mocking, insults and suffer for Christ. Repent of your non willingness to travel and toil for the ministries of God. Repent of your lack of saving. Repent of your non willingness to spend to accomplish the services of God. Repent of spending your time, effort, skills and resources doing your own projects, your own plan and your own will. Repent of your lack of wisdom and lack of discernment to choose with whom you are serving God and doing His ministry. Repent of your non willingness to discipline your family, wife and children and the people with you and to prepare them and make them ready to obey God. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins:

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Lord I commit myself to put what I received in this message into practice. Lord I commit myself to put my emotions and heart's feeling aside in leading my life to serve you. Lord, I commit myself to bring my tithes and various offerings and my firstfruits to support God's works, your church and ministries. Lord I am willing to give you what you had asked me to give. Lord I commit myself to save money and keep aside and be willing to spend on the ministry that you entrusted to me. Lord I commit myself to travel and to toil in order to serve you and do your mission's works. Lord I commit myself to suffer pain and persecution for your cause and purpose. Lord I commit myself to discipline my family, my wife and my children, and the people with me and to train them and make them ready to obey you and to do what you ask us to do. Lord I am asking you to increase my faith in you, and to give me the good health, the strength and the courage to live my life fully unto you. Lord I ask you to give me wisdom and discernment and direct me to the right people that you want me to serve you with. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and are willing to amend their ways and follow the instructions that we had received in this message in order to be ready with their families and the people with them to obey you. Lord provide them with all their needs so they will continue to go on and serve you. Lord reward them for every giving, offering, suffering, pain and sacrifice they offered to you. Lord prosper the works of their hands and their ministries. Lord use them as good example to others to go on and serve you and do your works and you will.

Lord bless us as a church to continue to teach what is correct. Lord we commit ourselves to do the good works that you had prepared for us to do. Lord we commit ourselves to implement all the teaching that we had received in this message so that we can obey you in full and to go on and serve you and finish the task that you entrusted to us to do. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord take the message and spread it to achieve the purpose of sending it. 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.

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