

How To Obey God

“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ 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.” ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ¹² “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.” ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” ¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” ¹⁹ Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.” (Genesis 22:1-19)

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 it 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.

The heart's emotion is very deceiving, *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)* In one occasion the Lord was speaking to His disciples about what He is going to suffer, *“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the*

elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” (Matthew 16:21) Peter reacted to what the Lord was speaking, *“Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” (Matthew 16:22)* Peter was ruled with his emotions and had allowed his heart to rule over his life. This emotional love is a foolish. The Lord rebuked Peter for what he did, *“Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” (Matthew 16:23)* 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, about 115 years old. 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. Laziness and complacency hinder many from obeying God. Don't be as those people but take the good example of Abraham.

3- Abraham spent material things: The two servants that accompanied Abraham, the knife, the fire and the expenses of food for three days journey are all expenditure Abraham needs to shoulder. Many people when it comes to expenses they don't want to spend to maintain their service and their ministry unto God.

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 the death, *“¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.” (Hebrews 11:17-19)* Faith is needed to obey God's commands.

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. We did not read that Sarah or Isaac opposed Abraham action, so we learn to train the people under our care and authority to obey God's word and commands so we will be able to obey God whenever He call 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.

My dear and beloved: *“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)* Therefore let us learn from the Scripture as we commit ourselves wholeheartedly to serve God and agree to 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 show clearly the way to obey. Lord I commit myself to put what I read into practice, asking you to give me the good health, the strength and the courage to live my life fully unto you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*