

# **ABRAHAM:**

## ***Faithful Friend of God!***

*John West*

In Genesis 12:1-3, we have recorded:

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

In this text, we can see the blessing that God made to Abraham. This promise was made because of Abraham's faithfulness to God. Abraham was not a perfect man (Gen. 12:11-13), but because of his obedience, he was considered a great servant of God.

### **ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS SHOWN:**

#### ***When He Left His Home***

Genesis 12 records this command of God for Abraham to leave his homeland. Stephen refers to this event at his defense before the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:2-4). The Hebrew writer mentions this call in Hebrews 11:8. He records that "by faith" Abraham left his homeland and he journeyed, "not knowing whither he went." It took great faith for Abraham to leave home, but he wanted to please God and be faithful to Him rather than please his family. He did not know where he was going, but his faith in God caused him to obey and leave.

Today as Christians, we may have to give up some things to live the Christian life and be pleasing to God. It may mean giving up a good paying job at a place where a Christian should not be (liquor store, night club, etc.). It may mean giving up family as a result of obedience to the gospel. It also may mean giving up friends that would be a bad influence or be a hindrance to Christian growth. We must make a decision to serve God, even if we have to give up something in the process (Mat. 6:24; 12:30).

#### ***When He Offered His Son Isaac Upon The Altar***

Genesis 22:1-12 records this great event of Abraham's faith.

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. 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. 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. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 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. 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. 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? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 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. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 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.

His faith in God caused him to offer his only begotten son on an altar. He knew that through Isaac “all the nations of the earth would be blessed,” and he still offered him because “Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness” (Jam. 2:23). His faith and love toward God was shown when he offered his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice to God.

### ***By The Titles Give To Him***

There are various titles given to Abraham that are recorded in the pages of God’s Word. He was called “faithful” in Galatians 3:9. This alone describes the relationship Abraham had with God. Faithfulness was what God required of Abraham. He was also called the “friend of God” in James 2:23, 2 Chronicles 20:7, and in Isaiah 41:8. What a glory and honor to be called “the friend of God.” This title was given to Abraham because of his faithfulness.

What can be said about our relationship to God? What will be said about us when we die? Will we be called “faithful” or a “friend of God”? In John 15:14, it is recorded, “Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you.” Like Abraham, we also can be called a “friend of God” if we keep his commandments. If we truly love God we **will** keep his commandments (1 John 5:3; John 14:15).

We can look at the life of Abraham for an example for us today. Abraham was faithful to God in the life that he lived and it was shown when he (1) left his home; (2) when he offered Isaac upon the altar; and (3) by the titles given to him.

We need to live that same type of life in faithfulness go God. By remaining faithful, we **know** where we will spend an eternity (Rev. 2:10).~