

GIVE ME YOUR SON (part 1) **(GENESIS 22:1-12, 16-19)**

After these events, God tested and proved Abraham and said to him, Abraham! And he said, Here I am. God said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go the region of Moriah; and **offer him there as a burnt offering** upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you.

What, do I hear You rightly? Sacrifice my son, the son of the promise? No Lord, never! You said that from him You will make a great nation and now You want me to kill him? What are You really saying, Lord? These would probably be mine and your reaction to God's command, but not that of Abraham's.

Abraham never doubted God to fulfill his promise to him; he believed, therefore he obeyed. In his lonely journey to those mountain ranges early in the morning, his thoughts were firmly on the belief that God was somehow going to provide a substitute for the life of his son, in the words said to his son, "God will provide, my son". Abraham passed the test that many, if not all men would have failed today.

"Take now your son, your only son" not tomorrow, but today, now. A command Abraham had no other choice but to obey. He was in the position to hear God's voice, because of his faith. Abraham had such close relationship with God, that He called him, my friend. He was in complete agreement with God, to the point that he knew the mind of God through faith believing the promise He had made early to him: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing (Genesis 12:2). Abraham's faith was now being tested for God was taking away from him his most precious possession- his son- the son of the promise. However, by his obedience to God, Abraham proved his love for God to be greater than that for his son.

Our love for God needs to be tested to prove its sincerity. God uses our children to refine and to sanctify us. It is hard for us mothers to give God the complete control of our children. Either our faith or our trust in God is weak, or we just cannot lose the control over them. When we are tested through their lives, we must learn to walk the lonely valley and desert in submission to God, following Him where He will lead us. It can be that the time has arrived for us to take our children to the altar and walk away, to leave them where God will have complete control of them. When that happens, we are allowing God to do His work of bringing them back to Him to transform them into His own image. Walk away from the presence of God confident of His love for your child. When he/she comes to you with question, as in, why? Just tell them "God will provide a way for you" my son, my daughter, as Abraham replied to his son just before the sacrifice.

It took three days for Abraham to reach the place where God wanted him to sacrifice his son. And "on the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance". He believed God

was going either to bring his son to life or provide a substitution lamb for the sacrifice in that place.

Not knowing what the future of four thousand years was going to bring, his words were prophetic when he said, "God **Himself** will provide a lamb for the burnt sacrifice (Genesis 22:8). This reflexive pronoun Himself speaks volume, for this provision was coming from heaven, God Himself would come down and take the substitute place on the altar for Isaac's sons and the the world's sons.

As our children face trials, we must look up believing in the resurrection power of God for them. While God is dealing with them, find your space under the shadow of the Almighty for your spiritual strength; agree with Him and submit to His sovereign will for your children. The Prophet Jeremiah, under the inspiration of God had this to say, **It is good that one should hope in and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord; it is good for a man that he should bear the yoke [of divine disciplinary dealings] in his youth; let him sit alone uncomplaining and keeping silent, because [God] has laid upon him [for his benefit]; for the Lord will not cast off forever! But though He causes grief, yet will He be moved to compassion according to the multitude of His loving-kindness and tender mercy. For He does not willingly and from His heart afflict or grieve the children of men. Let us test and examine our ways, and let us return to the Lord (Lamentations 3)!**

Examine your heart and let the Holy Spirit reveal to you the hidden causes of your child's behavior. What are the roots of sins of iniquity in your family? Pray breaking the generation curses from them; seek the Lord for guidance and understanding, realizing that the battle is not against whom you see, but against the power of the enemy and his demons. Love him/her for love is the most powerful weapon a mother can use with her prayers and with submission to God against the enemy. Love conquers all, for it is the heart of God acting through you. The roots of sins of iniquity will be removed from your child one step at the time, with your persevering prayer. Concentrate not on how long will it take, but concentrate on your faith and trust to believe that God is faithful to His word; He will do what He said He would.

Make Psalms 86: 11-12 and 139:23-24 your prayer before you intercede for your child: **Teach me Your way, O Lord that I may walk and live in Your truth; direct and unite my heart to fear and honor Your name; Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting;**

Pray the words of Psalm 139:14-16 for your son/daughter: **I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my son's birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well. His frame was not hidden from You when he/she was being formed in secret [and] intricately and curiously wrought in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw his/her unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of his life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them.**

I surrender my will for my son to Your will from this day forth believing and trusting in your Word in Yahshua's name.