

Faith of Abraham

Written by Jeff Henderson

In the scriptures there are many fascinating stories which involve men and women from all periods of time. Perhaps it is good from time to time to be reminded that these were actual people living on earth just like us today. They are men and women who have daily struggles and temptations just as we. The stories about such individuals are not fantasies or myths. One such story is of Abraham and his son Isaac.

In Genesis chapter 22 we read the account of the offering of Isaac by Abraham. We know that God called unto Abraham and gave him instructions to take Isaac and offer him on a mountain that would be told.

The scriptures very plainly tell us that Abraham did just as God had instructed him. He took his son Isaac, two servants, and wood and begin the journey to offer his son. Three days later Abraham separated himself from the two servants and took his son Isaac, the wood, and the fire to go and offer his son.

Upon arrival of the place which God had told Abraham, he prepares an altar, lays the wood, binds Isaac and lays him on the altar.

Abraham then took the knife and stretched out his hand to kill his son Isaac but the angel of Lord stopped him.

This is a marvelous illustration of the faith of Abraham. Abraham believed in God to the point that he would kill the one son that God had given to him.

In Hebrews chapter 11 we learn a greater extent of Abraham's faith. Abraham believed that the God that had instructed him to offer his son Isaac also had the ability to raise that son from the dead.

In Romans chapter 4 the apostle Paul explains that because of Abraham's faithful obedience to the will of God, God counted him as righteous, that his God justified him or made him right. The apostle goes on to say that what is true of Abraham can also be true of believers today. If we believe on God and his son Jesus who was raised from the dead we too can be justified.

But as was the case with Abraham so it is with us, obedience is required. Faith alone will not save.

James makes this point clear in James 3:20-26.

James reminds us that it was the offering of Isaac that justified Abraham. James very plainly ties faith together with actions.

So then we see that by faithful obedience to the word of God, we to like Abraham can be counted as right. This then begs the question, are we obedient to the instructions given to us by God. God commands we love our neighbor as ourselves. Do we? God commands we love him above all else. Do we? God commands that we forgive our brother when he repents. Do we?

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Abraham was faithful to the instructions of God even to the point of offering his only son Isaac. To what point will we continue to have faith in God and be obedient to his will. Revelation 2:10 tells us to be faithful until death. As a result of his great faith, Abraham reaped the blessings of God. God has likewise promised blessings to those who faithfully obey his word today. Blessings that are far greater than Abraham ever saw, an eternal home with God in heaven.