

## The Great Faith of Abraham By Trey Sullins

One of the greatest faiths that we find in the Bible is that of Abraham. Multiple times he is mentioned throughout the book of Hebrews for his great faith. In Genesis 22:1-18 Abraham proves his faith in God by showing himself willing to offer his son to God.

First, Abraham showed incredible faith because he prepared himself. In Genesis 22:2 Abraham is told “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I shall tell you.” Immediately following in verse three, Abraham rises early in the morning to do what he needs to in order to make the journey. He gathered the supplies, his donkey, servants and his son and they arose and left. All this he did while knowing that at the end of this journey he was going to have to sacrifice his own son! Can you imagine preparing for and making a trip with an ending like that?

Second, Abraham did exactly as God told him to. Abraham’s actions were directly as God commanded. At any point he could have decided to change the plan or alter it so that he wouldn’t have to give up his only son. What if he brought an animal for the sacrifice and made plans to swap it for his son? However, he didn’t do this either. He also didn’t make any attempt to stall or halt the journey. In Genesis 22:5, as soon as the group arrived, Abraham took his son and went directly to the location of the offering. In a powerful display of his faith Abraham obeyed every single thing that God asked of him.

Third, Abraham ignored his own desires. Consider the situation again. Isaac was Abraham’s only son. He was the son that Abraham wanted to carry on his lineage. Isaac was also the son that God had directly promised to Abraham and Sarah and miraculously gave to them (Genesis 17:16). Isaac was a very special blessing not only as a son, but as a gift from God. Still, Abraham put all of these things aside and raised the knife above his only son (Genesis 22:10). Remember also that for three days (Genesis 22:4) Abraham traveled knowing what he was going to have to do.

Fourth, Abraham understood God’s absolute power. He understood that whatever God told him to do is what he had to do. Abraham respected God’s authority and showed no signs of resistance. He also understood that God had the power over this physical world. In Hebrews 11:17-19, the Bible shows us that Abraham knew God could even raise his son from the dead. There was no question in Abraham’s mind as to whether God had enough power to do such an incredible thing as that.

We must train ourselves to have great faith like Abraham by following the pattern that he did. We should prepare ourselves for the work of the Lord. In John 4:23-24, we read that are to worship in spirit and in truth. If we have not prepared ourselves like we should, then we won’t know how to worship correctly. Even if we do understand how to worship correctly, without proper preparation, then we will not be serving God as He demands. God expects us to do exactly as he says as well. Just like Abraham didn’t, we can’t add to or take away from what God has instructed (Revelation 22:18-19). We also have to ignore our own desires if they are against God. Lastly, we must understand that God has absolute power. He has authority to tell us what to do (Colossians 3:17). God also has all power over the world we live in (Romans 9:20-21).

How strong is your faith? Think about the ways that you can make your faith great like so many of those that we find in Hebrews 11. The underlying that we find in all that Abraham did is obey God over everything else in life (Acts 5:29). By doing this then we too will have a great faith like Abraham!