

Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 9

Obedience Requires You to Let Go.

To live in obedience, we must have 'ears to hear' and hearts that are ready to submit to God's Word. We must also be ready to surrender to God all we have, especially that which is most precious to us, our time, our money, our life.

A W Tozer in his book, 'The Dangers of a Shallow Faith' wrote; "Surrender is a clear act of obedience to the Word of God. When I talk about surrender, I am talking about the idea of absolutely and completely giving over my life to God, whatever it entails, without any strings attached. Some would give God as much as 99 percent of their life, but they want to hold on to that last 1 percent. **Either God is Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all.** Either we have completely surrendered 100 percent of ourselves to God or we have not done anything acceptable to God. Our Father will not accept a partial surrender."

Read Gen 22: 2-18

For those who are parents, what is more important than their lives is the life of their child. Many would readily sacrifice themselves for their children. Here in Gen 22, God asked Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, his only son, the son he loved deeply, as a sacrifice to Him. God's command sounded so unreasonable; it didn't make sense.

Interestingly, Abraham did not argue with God, nor tried to talk God out of it, nor gave any excuse not to do what God had commanded. The Bible said Abraham obeyed. He brought Isaac to the mountain God had directed, built an altar, laid the wood, bound Isaac and laid him on the altar. "Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son" before God stopped him (Gen 22: 9-12). Abraham couldn't have expected God to stop him at the very last minute or believed that God would provide a ram instead for the sacrifice. Abraham's action demonstrated his total obedience to God; whatever God asked of him, he would obey. There is nothing Abraham would not give or do for God.

Questions to ponder

1. What did God command Abraham to do (22:2) and what was Abraham's response (3)? If you were Abraham and God has asked you to give Him something that is precious to you, how would you respond?
2. What does Abraham's unquestioning obedience tell us about his faith and what did God promise him (Gen 22:12, 16-18)?
3. Practically what would it mean for you to "absolutely and completely give over your life to God, whatever it entails, without any strings attached"?