

# “The Power of Adventuresome Believing”

Genesis 22:1-14

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

- It’s always the people who give God the **best** of themselves that make a **difference** in life!

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

- “Substance” means title-deed, and implies **ownership**.
- “Evidence” means: that which makes us **certain**.

Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”  
Genesis 15:5

And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. Genesis 15:6

“Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah.

Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.” Genesis 22:2

(Insert black & white drawing picture of Molech from internet.)

- The question every follower of Jesus must answer: Am I a **convenient** Christian or a **committed** Christian?

“God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son...” 22:8a

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, <sup>18</sup> even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” <sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. Hebrews 11:17-19a

And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. <sup>11</sup> At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!” <sup>12</sup> “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” Genesis 22:10-12a

Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the LORD will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” vs.14

- God **always provides!**
- ❖ The Point of this story: God did not want the life of a little boy. He wanted / wants the heart of an adult **surrendered** to Him in faith!

Applications from this story:

1. Theological. This story is a part of the unfolding plan of God as He prepares for the **redemption** of the world.

(Insert two pictures from internet: 1) The Temple Mount in Jerusalem, showing part of the western wall & the Dome of the Rock above it. 2) Mt. Calvary, again in Jerusalem, showing a close-up view of the face of the rock wall.)

2. The testing of my faith. God has a **purpose** in everything that's happening to me, whether it is triumph or tragedy.
3. The **courage** of faith.

- o Adventuresome believing must be **active**.

➤ Faith in itself is not enough. Faith must have an **object**.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31