

## #2943 0502 21A VIRTUAL

A life that *God approves* would be a life that *trusts Him* for everything—due to their love for Him in their heart. The life of Abraham was approved by God as Abraham is already in Heaven. Abraham begins the Hebrew people and is the founder of the Jewish nation. He is an example of God's plan of salvation for the world.

God told Abraham to leave his home and his past way of living. He was not allowed to sell the property nor give the money to the poor—he just had to *leave* and *trust* God in faith from that time—*that* is a life God approves.

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

It was a total surrender of *his* will to *God's* will—giving up all he was attached to and maybe depended on. It began his new life of faith that

was ready to depend on God alone. Abraham *started* right and kept *going* right—and it would end right if he never looked back. Genesis 12:2 "*I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee.*"

A life that God approves is a life that trusts God in faith like Abraham did. Jesus taught that if we were not scriptural in our *finances*, then we would not be scriptural in *other* areas, and our life would not be approved by God. Our focus is on the spiritual light and the divine revelations of God's Truth from the life of Abraham.

Abraham began each day by depending on God in faith—just as Israel had to live when God guided them to a wilderness. It was a matter of financial *trust* that gave Abraham this right spiritual *start*—*that* was the foundation for a right scriptural *life* that God would approve. Every true *child of God* will have to live by that same *faith in God* if they want the same Heaven.

We all seek happiness and contentment conditions that *existed* and were *enjoyed* in the first Garden. As *water* is the natural element for *marine* life; *contentment* and *peace* are the natural elements for *human* life. God intended it to *be* that way from the start—but a wrong *choice* changed everything!

Abraham's life is the Christian life—his example proves the gospel Truth of the New Testament—and the Old Testament where it supports the New. If the true gospel is not *taught*, and if a correct interpretation of the Scriptures is not given, then we could be deceived to think it is not necessary to really *trust* God for healing and finances—but God says it *is* necessary!

Satan constantly tries to convince people that God does *not* do things for people today—that He has *changed*. The majority of people saying they are God's children have accepted that lie. The full Truth from the Bible is that God has *not* changed and that the Scriptures are in full *force* todaythat leaves the majority of *supposed* believers with no truth at all.

Abraham's life of faith *that* day is the believer's life of faith *this* day—even though everyone began life with an attitude that is *opposite* to the attitude Abraham had at the end of his life. We begin life with our thoughts controlled by self and Satan—and no one can deliver us from those deadly enemies of our soul except God. Instead of being unscriptural in every thought, word, and deed; we will become scriptural in thought, word, and deed.

Abraham committed his life to God, and he intended to do God's will concerning everything. The result of this right *attitude* was many *blessings* here on earth—and as Jesus said when Abraham left this life, he went to his promised home in Heaven. Anyone who lives by faith in God and follows His Word, can have the same eternal reward.

Jesus said Matthew 8:11-12 "That many Gentiles will come from all over the world and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Three principles of trust were part of Abraham's life—1. God's financial plan; 2. His divine healing plan; 3. Meeting all circumstances in a scriptural way. No one is able to do this or have the wisdom to understand it by themselves—because spiritual *truth* cannot be learned by human *intelligence*. Only God can provide the spiritual light and ability needed—we are responsible only to *choose* the correct pathway—*then* He gives the ability.

The *right* to choose a life of faith in God can never be taken from us—it *is* an awesome responsibility, because it places the fate of our *soul* right in our own *hands*. If the lake of fire is our *fate*, then *that* was our *choice*! God wants it to be much *different*—so it is only sensible to *listen* to Him; to *learn* from Him, and to *trust* Him because Genesis 18:14 "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"

The devil is our worst enemy John 8:44 since his only desire is to *kill* us physically, and then *destroy* our soul eternally. Anyone who listens to the *devil* will end where *he* is; but those who listen to *God* and obey *His* Word will receive many blessings here on earth and later be rewarded with eternal life in Heaven!

Scripture teaches that we all have the *choice* to allow *God* to work *for* us; and we have the *choice* to allow the *devil* to work against us. No matter how we choose, *God* has a two-fold right to our life: 1. Creation by His divine power; 2. Purchase by His Atonement Blood. Our life *belongs* to Him—and only *He* can make us happy while He makes us ready for Heaven.

Abraham accepted God's plans on divine *healing* and financial *trust*—and we must also. If he had *not* accepted those two plans, we would *not* have read about Abraham—he *would* have been in the lake of fire all these thousands of years. Instead of suffering, he has enjoyed the glory of Heaven for all this time—just because he was *willing*, and just because he always said "Yes" to God.

Abraham accepted God's healing plan and was blessed with a son. As the boy grew up, however, God saw that Abraham loved Isaac more than he loved God. If he had *not* loved Isaac more, God would *not* have given the test He did.

Satan is always trying to get something between us and God—to have us *love* something or someone more than we love God. The devil wants to have us depend on, or to trust *in*, something instead of God. Isaac was the *cause* of this wrong attitude in Abraham, and it *caused* him to disobey the first Commandment; Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Abraham was to love *God* with his whole heart and soul—not Isaac.

Due to this wrong *attitude*, Abraham was told to do the *worst* thing he could be asked to do. It was the most difficult and heart-searching thing *anyone* could be asked to do. Genesis 22:2 "*Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*"

Abraham could have easily *questioned* whether God really meant for him to do that—but Abraham had committed his life to God, so he just *obeys* and *plans* to do what God *said* to do. He builds the altar; arranges the wood, and prepares to sacrifice. But at the last moment God stays his hand—saying *twice* Genesis 22:12 "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."

God now *knew* that Abraham had given *Him* and His *Word* their right place in his heart. God *knew* that Abraham was totally committed to doing His will and obeying His Word—that is what God needs to see in us. Abraham could *not* have done this by his *own strength* or *determination*. He was *inspired* to do it, because he was *willing* to obey the Word of God. The *training* that God had given Abraham enabled him to do it—just as He enabled Jesus to suffer death on the cross for *us*.

The results of obeying God's Word and doing His will are stated. Genesis 22:16-18 "By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Abraham got *back to* the attitude *we* must get *back to*—where God's Word has *first* place in our heart and is the supreme *object* of our love. Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." Abraham was *worthy* of Christ—because he was *devoted* to God.

It was graduation day—a true preparation for eternal life—allowing God, through His teaching and training and various situations—to the place where it makes no difference how difficult; how dangerous; or how threatening a situation may be—nor how easily we could deliver ourselves, we will refuse to do it, because it is God's place to do it.

When our *last* human plan is followed, and when the *last* human thing we are trusting on is out of the way, *then* the full power of God is *released* to heal, deliver, protect, supply, or change whatever we need changed. Abraham's willingness to *listen* to God and to *obey* His Word—paid off, big time!

He now has an *eternity* to celebrate and rejoice about it. He *graduated* from God's training school—and has already had thousands of years of happiness, contentment, and peace. He will join the *multitudes* Revelation 5:12 Saying, "*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*" All these *thousands* of years are only a *fraction* of what he will enjoy because eternity is time without end!

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