

Genesis 22:2

Then He said, "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 of which I shall tell you."

Abraham was to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, and he was being obedient to God by doing so, with no questions asked, just simple obedience. And in return, God provided a ram instead to replace Isaac, so that Abraham could keep his son and not offer him to God as a sacrifice.

Many will read that and think that they would be willing to give up what is most precious to them. But you know, sometimes God will ask us to do things, like give up someone or something that we cherish more than anything or anyone else in the world. And people do so, because they read this account and think that God will not really take that person or thing from their lives, so they say they would freely give him or her, to the Lord.

But just because God did it for Abraham, does not mean He will do the same thing for us. We think we know better, and that God would never ask us to give it, or them up, where as God knows that person or thing may be, or is actually an idol to us and that we need to get him, or her, or it, out of your life. If we don't, God's knows that we will be heading for a path that we do not want to walk, which is a path that is leading us away from the Lord, not closer to Him.

So the real question is, are you really willing to give that person or thing up? Maybe it's a relationship, that God is saying, this one is not the right one for you. But you have been arguing with God telling Him that you can change that person, or that you know he or she is the right one for you. If you are doing that, then you are not truly responding like Abraham did, because Abraham never argued or tried to justify why he shouldn't have to sacrifice his son of promise to God. And if you think about it, Isaac never argued with God either, saying why he shouldn't be sacrificed, but both were quietly obedient to God. Just like Jesus didn't argue with God either, He was quietly obedient to the Father as well.

† **Isaiah 53:7** *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

If you have to ask God why, or justify why or even think you know better than God, then don't expect Him to say, "You know what, you are right, I was wrong, go ahead and hang onto that person or thing that I asked you to offer to Me or give up for Me." God would never say that because He wants what's best for you not what you think is best for you.

So being several months into the New Year, you may have made New Year's Resolutions to eat better, or exercise more, or spend less, or stop smoking, or get your finances in order or whatever. Those are your plans for 2025, but have you asked God what His plans for you are in

2025? If not, you can still ask Him, even though we are three months into the new year. But when you do, then expect to hear an answer from God, and be willing to be obedient to that answer. If you can't be, then don't ask. The bible even says, ***“Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.” Ecclesiastes 5:5*** Or as Jesus says, ***“But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.” Matthew 5:37***

Simply, be a man or woman of your word, don't say it unless you are actually going to do it; and like Abraham, don't think you are being obedient if you are going to argue with God. Just do what He asks you to do, and let Him deal with whatever fears you may have with it, or as we all love to quote, ***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5*** That's just what Abraham did, he trusted in the Lord, even though He didn't understand it, because God was asking him to offer his son as a sacrifice to Him, even Isaac, who was Abraham's everything. And Abraham did because he ***“Trusted in the LORD with all his heart.”***

Do you?

† ***Psalm 143:8 Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.***