



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

www.buildingfathershouse.org

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 25 : “Bases of Prayer” - Abraham's trust was in "thus said the Lord" - trust in for who He is.

John 8:39

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Purpose of this workshop: To consider trust in Almighty God as the basis of prayer.

Intended Goal: To encourage the believer through the life of Abraham to love The Lord in an intimate relationship with God as we trust in Him.

Scripture readings :

*Deuteronomy 30:20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that **thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life**, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*

Mark 12:29-30 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.

Romans 4:8-13 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the

circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and **labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;***

James 2:17-18 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

*Hebrews 10:38 Now the **just shall live by faith;** But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."*

Romans 1:3-5 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

*Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the **author and finisher of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Romans 16:25-27 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Written to the Romans from Corinthus, and sent by Phebe servant of the church at Cenchrea.

Ruth 2:12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

2 Samuel 22:3-7 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Psalm 2:11-12 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Food for thought :

In considering the "works of Abraham". What did Abraham do, he did what is right in the sight of God. Abraham walked in obedience to God and the Word of God as he received it from God. This earned him the title - father of faith. For God called Abraham to become an instrument in His hand, an instrument to bring glory to God. *Gal 3:7-8 Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.** And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.* This blessing came to us because of Abraham's obedience. *Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Abraham knew that as the created beings we should not look at ourselves for the answer to our 'being' but should look at our Creator. As Paul explained in *Romans 9:21-26 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.* So when God called on Abraham - what did Abraham do, he worked to be obedient to God, that is the "works of Abraham". As written by definition work is (a primary but obsolete word; to work); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication an act: - **deed, doing, labour, work.**) In relation to the mentioned, **the most important work of Abraham life was that as he accepted God as God, he choose to faithfully labour/work to do everything in obedience to God.** He did as God commanded and was thus faithful in the covenant God made with him. He was able to do this because he **fully trusted in God.**

Abraham's work of faith is a journey, that he started in search of a city *Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.* Abraham did not start this journey in vain, he started so that his heirs could inherit the promise of God. As God said in Abraham all nations will be blessed. This did not mean that Abraham is a blessing to all, but **through Abraham's work of faith (obedience) and as we follow in his example of obedience, we will be blessed.** *Genesis 18:18-19 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

James 2:17-18 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. To believe and to have faith is only part of the process, **the question is - to what extend did your faith move you into the work of faith.** Abraham was first moved to leave everything he knew in search of God's promise, then he was moved to walk in obedience trusting not in himself and his ability but in God. Finally his faith in God's ability was tested when God called on him to sacrifice his own son on the basis that he believed that God could raise him up again. Do you believe enough in God to be moved into action, **leaving behind all that you trust in.**

If we consider Abraham's journey, he heard God and knew it was God on that basis he followed God. The more he obeyed God the more he knew God, the more he knew God, the more he trusted God to the extent that he was willing to offer his own son in knowledge that God could raise him up again!

We see **three stages** in his journey. *Deuteronomy 30:20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. and also in considering Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.* We can see that there is three places of surrender, and only by surrendering them all, we can truly become an instrument in God's hand.

Stage 1: **Love - (whole heart)** the love for God must be more than the love for anything else, even more than self.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Stage 2: **Obedience - (whole soul)** walking in obedience as we surrender our own will and mind based on the love for God.

Stage 3: **Dependency - (whole might)** faith in the ability of the one God you love and obey, not considering your own inability but looking at His ability. *Galatians 5:5-6 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love.***

The mentioned three stages is in preparation for us to become the living temple, a dwelling place for God so that the power of God working in us can fulfill within us the promise of God.

We are saved by faith and not by works, but works is the act of faith as we put into practice our trust in God.

True stories :

Genesis 22:1-19

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 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." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt

offering.” So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

God’s authority :

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 12:24-25 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

1John 2:17-20 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Deuteronomy 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Romans 8:23-25 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Psalm 4:5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalm 17:6-7 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Psalm 34:22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Psalm 44:6-8 For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

Psalm 56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Psalm 118:8-9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Isaiah 26:4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Conclusion :

When Jesus said unto the people in *John 8:39* *They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.* He said by implication that if then you are born of faith through your father Abraham, why do you not put into action that what you then believe.

Likewise, we are quick to say we believe, but do you believe enough to put your faith into action. We are called like Abraham, but are we willing like Abraham to go on a journey where the destination is but a promise. It takes total obedience and surrender, placing our total reliance upon God.

Prayer is such a journey - God is calling on all of us, who are believers in Christ Jesus to surrender all, as it is commanded in *Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.* Looking at the mentioned, we are quick to say I will surrender all, but in the light of Abraham's journey, let us consider the full meaning of Mark 12:30.

To love God is a command, with all, is the **measure of the love**, meaning :

- With all they heart, is to put every desire of our heart under the rule of God's love.
- With all they soul, is to put every self-will under the rule of God's will.
- With all they mind, is to put every thought of understanding under the rule of the knowledge of God.
- With all they strength, is to put every own effort of what I can do (our inability) under the rule of what God can do and His ability.

The Lord said that He will not share His glory, the calling we received is to bring glory unto the All Mighty God as we build together a dwelling place for Him in the Spirit. Like the tabernacle all the furniture and the building itself was to the glory of God. We should be transformed from glory to glory so that the glory we reflect is the glory of God.

The prayer journey :

-Stage 1 (Love relationship). **To start the journey, we need to come into the intimate love relationship with God, looking away from anything that** can hinder us, unto Jesus so that we can see our Father in Heaven.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

-Stage 2 (Listen in Obedience). **To seek the Lord your God, and obey.**

Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

-Stage 3 (Act in Dependency) **To allow God to wash us with His Word so that our faith in Him and in His ability will surpass your own understanding, as we work the work of faith in the knowledge of God and His ability, considering not our own inability.**

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

If by faith we start out on this journey, maybe we will not see the promise come to fulfillment, as Abraham did not see, but through our obedience others will be blessed. Just as we have been blessed through the obedience of Abraham!

Questions to be answered :

1. In the light of Abraham's life what does The Lord require of us in order for us to walk with Him in an intimate relationship?
2. How do we prove our faith?
3. Why is Abraham called the Father of Faith
4. What is the three stages of Abraham's journey in his relationship of obedience to God
5. If you compare the prayer journey and the stages of Abraham's journey what do you conclude?