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Daily Devotions: Acquiring Great Faith

APRIL 19TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

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Submitted by

Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

Hebrews 11:17-19 NKJV

(17) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

(18) of whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED,"

(19) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

I've had people tell me, "I wish that I had great faith." While most of us would like God to just drop that kind of confidence in to our laps, it's not the way He operates. Faith increases as a result of our obedience in little things. We all marvel at Abraham's willingness to offer up Isaac at the Lord's command. But have you ever stopped to consider all of his smaller steps of submission that prepared the way for this enormous test?

Throughout his lifetime, Abraham obeyed God. At the Lord's command, he left his country (Gen 12:1-4), was circumcised (17:10, 26), conceived Isaac in his old age (21:1-3), and sent his son Ishmael away (21:9-14). By the time he was asked to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, he already knew that his God would always be faithful to His promises. His previous experiences had taught Him to trust the Lord.

In the same way, each small step of obedience solidifies our confidence in God. Then, when He challenges us with a more difficult assignment, a firm foundation of assurance enables us to trust and obey Him. Great acts of faith flow from our past interactions with the Lord. By neglecting His simple commands, we miss priceless opportunities to witness His faithfulness.

Having trouble trusting God for something big?

Maybe it's because you've ignored those "small" and "insignificant" promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Lord considers each of His commands important and promises to reward every act of obedience, regardless of size. Great faith begins with little steps.

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