

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

“How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt. 6b

Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

VIP Silver Saints - Conference Call: (717) 908-1834, 755875# – Dial *6 to Mute

OPENING PRAYER (2-3 MINUTES) WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

- 1. L... Learning together from God's Word**
- 2. I... Interceding through prayer**
- 3. F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
- 4. E... Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt.6b

POINT I

Romans 4:20 says, *“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.”* Abraham gave glory to God before the answer manifested. Strong faith begins to praise before the answer materializes. Thomas worshipped Jesus after he was able to see the risen Lord and touch him, but Abraham’s faith gave God glory in advance of any physical manifestations. Praise and worship are an act of faith. You don’t do it for God’s benefit, but for your own.

When you praise God, you restrict the enemy’s ability to affect you. That’s why we encourage you to be in church for praise and worship. You give the Devil a fit when you go to church ready to lift your hands and sing praises unto your God. It’s a major part of your faith. Praise is thanking God in advance for what he has promised. Right now, lift up your hands and begin to give God praise. This is not the time to be tight-lipped. It’s an act of your faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith without works is dead!

QUESTIONS

1. What was a major difference between Abraham’s faith and Thomas’s faith?

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2. What happens when you praise, worship and give God thanks before the manifestation?
3. How should you enter the church doors? Give us an example.

POINT II

Going back to Abraham. Abraham had faith to do the most difficult thing imaginable! God asked him to take the life of his son and then burn his body on an altar. Listen, even after you receive the promise, you still have to stand in faith to keep the promise. That's why you have to live by faith. **Hebrews 11:17** in the Amplified Bible states, "*By faith Abraham, when he was tested [that is, as the testing of his faith was still in progress],*" the testing of your faith is always in progress! The **verse 17** continues to say, "*[that is, as the testing of his faith was still in progress], offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises [of God] was ready to sacrifice his only son [of promise].*" As a father this is inconceivable! I could never even consider doing this.

QUESTION

1. Even after you receive the promise; what must you continue to do? Why?

Genesis 21:1-3 AMP bible states, "*The LORD graciously remembered and visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for her as He had promised. 2 So Sarah conceived and gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham named his son Isaac (laughter), the son to whom Sarah gave birth.* He named his son laughter. Why? Because sometimes you have laugh at the Devil. Every time he saw his son and called his name, he was laughing at the Devil. Because what God has blessed can no man, even the Devil, curse.

QUESTION

1. Why did Abraham name his son Isaac? Give us a sample of his name.

POINT III

Now, let's look at **Genesis 22:1** were it says, "*Now after these things, God tested [the faith and commitment of] Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am."*" because you can't get so caught up with the promise that you forget where the promise came from. There have been so many times. God blesses people with cars, and houses and so many other things. Even husbands and wives or even jobs and businesses. But then they say, "Well, I can't come to church or serve in the ministry because they are so caught up with the promise they received from God." God is not going to give you something that takes you

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away from serving him and coming to worship him. God will test you to see where your loyalty lies. In him or the promise you received!

QUESTION

1. What some people do after they receive their promise from God? Why is that?

Let go back to **Genesis 22:1** says, “..God tested [the faith and commitment of] Abraham” God wants to see if you will still be as committed to come to church, Will you still be as committed to get up in the morning and come to early morning prayer. Will you still be as committed to serve in the ministry and be on time doing it. Will you still be as committed to give of your tithes and offerings.

QUESTION

1. Why does God test your faith? What are you willing to sacrifice?

POINT IV

God tested [the faith and commitment of Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am." 2 God said, "Take now your son, your only son [of promise], whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." Notice he says whom you love. Is your love for the promise I gave you greater than your love for Me and what I'm doing in the earth. Have you passed the test of Abraham? What did Abram do when he was tested with the most difficult thing imaginable.

QUESTION

1. Have you ever had to take the Abraham test? Did you pass? Share!

Verse 3 says, “*So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and then he got up and went to the place of which **God had told him.***” Abraham knew that voice. The same voice that told him he was going to receive the promise is the same voice that told him to sacrifice the promise. There will be times, when God will ask you to do things that make no sense to other people. The person who operates by faith may do things that no one else understands. Even Abraham's wife didn't understand let alone those of his household. But listen closely, Abraham's obedience to sacrifice his only son made the way for God to sacrifice His only son, Jesus. What God tells you to sacrifice today will have an affect on generations to come. Without your sacrifice your sons and daughters can miss out

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on so much God has in store for them. Your sacrifice not only affects you, but it also affects generations. We see that in our own national history and even in our individual families.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to know the voice of God concerning His promise?
2. Has God ever put you in a situation that you didn't understand and neither did others?
3. What affect does your sacrifice have?

POINT V

It's important to note what happened at the end of the story. **Genesis 22:9-11 AMP** states, *"When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood, and bound Isaac his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He answered, "Here I am." The LORD said, "Do not reach out [with the knife in] your hand against the boy, and do nothing to [harm] him; for now I know that you fear God [with reverence and profound respect], since you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son [of promise]." When did God know that Abraham had reverence and profound respect for him? When he was willing to sacrifice the thing that he loved the most, his son! He wasn't lip syncing, "Lord, I really love you but I'm not getting up this morning. Lord, I really love you but, I have to do this and that. I have to work on my house this Sunday morning. The plumber can only come today!" Find another plumber! The Lord is not listening to your promises that you never keep or the commitment you said you were going to have this year but have no intention of following through. Stop the excuses! Your excuses will jeopardize the blessing!*

QUESTIONS

1. What are some things people promise but never follow through? Why is that?
2. Does the Lord listen to your excuse? Why or why not!
3. Why is it important to stop making excuses when God is dealing with you on something?

POINT VI

Abraham didn't have to follow through with killing his son because God saw his heart was to serve and be obey him no matter what. **Genesis 22:13-14** says, *13 Then Abraham looked up and glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering (ascending sacrifice) instead of his son. God provided a ram for the sacrifice. 14 So Abraham named*

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that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be seen and provided." When you operate in faith as Abraham did, even when it is difficult, even when you don't feel like doing it and you do it anyway, God will always provide. The blessings will flow!

QUESTIONS

1. What will God's response be when he sees that in your heart you will obey and follow through no matter what?

POINT VII

The Thomas-kind of faith is nothing more than walking by sight, and that is not the way the Word of God says we are to live. **2 Corinthians 5:7** says: "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) *The Amplified* reads, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]." Living our lives consistently. Being confident that what God has promised he will perform. The Abraham-kind of faith is the faith that pleases God. If you want to move forward in the way of faith, then do what Abraham did.

1. Let the Lord direct each step of your life. Don't expect him to give you a complete outline, but just take the steps as the Lord reveals them.
2. Believe God's promises before you see the fulfillment.
3. Trust God above your own feelings or popular opinions.
4. Give glory to God while you wait.

QUESTIONS

1. If we want the Abraham kind of faith, what must we be willing to do?
2. Which one step pertains directly to you?

A final thought about the Abraham-kind of faith versus the Thomas-kind of faith. Thomas had to wait about a week to see the risen Lord. Abraham waited 25 years for the fulfillment of God's promise to him. Christians often put a time limit on God. They might be able to believe God for a few months, but if the manifestation takes years, many believers give up. When you decide to believe God to heal your body, meet your needs, or bring a spouse to you, you shouldn't put a circle around a day on the calendar when you will stop believing. You should have an, I will wait... attitude. In other words. I will believe God until I have the manifestation in my life. Never give up, never stop believing, never stop speaking the Word of God, and never stop praising him.

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QUESTIONS

1. Instead of putting a time limit on God, what should you be doing?

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo and the ministerial staff.
 - Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler
- 4) Pray for Revival in our church your life group and throughout the Caribbean.

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join “Read Along with Word of Faith” for its’ upcoming Small Talks Series on the following subjects.

1. The Word of God and Money with Dr. Tamara Lang – **Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m.**
2. Trusting God when building or buying a home with Minister Jennifer Bachelor **Tuesday, March 28th at 7:30pm.**

The meetings will be held on ZOOM and Facebook. Meeting ID is **Meeting ID: 844 8529 1794** Passcode: **202540**. Don’t miss out!

3. Join Single with a Purpose for their monthly meeting on **Friday, March 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** Invite a friend and bring a dish. For more information contact Minister Bachelor.

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6. Join the SWAT Team for their next **SWAT Outing, Saturday, March 11 th and March 25th at 11:00 am.** For more information contact Minister Francis.

7. Join us for **Baby Dedication, Sunday, March 12th at 10:00 am.** To register contact the church office at (340) 774-8617.

8. Join “*Read Along with Word of Faith*” for its’ upcoming Small Talks Series on the following subjects:

- a. The Word of God and Money with Dr. Tamara Lang – **Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m.**
- b. Trusting God when Buying Building or Buying a Home with Minister Jennifer Bachelor, Proverbs 24:3a states – “Through wisdom is a house built...” – **Tuesday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m.**

The meetings will be held on ZOOM and Facebook. **Meeting ID** is: 844 8529 1794, **Passcode:** 202540. Don’t miss out! Submit your questions to Minister Abbott by email at sherri.ann.abbott@gmail.com

9. Join the VIP Silver Saints for as they learn to ZOOM. Sunday, March 19th immediately following service. Please bring your electronic device (Phone, iPad or computer.) For more information contact Minister Irene Williams.

10. Join Covenant Partners Ministry for their next meeting **Friday, March 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** Invite a couple and bring a dish! For more information, contact Minister Oysterman by email at wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com.

11. Join us for **A Night of Prayer, Friday, March 31, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** until midnight. Men ought always to pray and not faint.

12. 2022 marked Word of Faith’s 25th anniversary. We’re selling coffee mugs with a special design to commemorate this momentous occasion. The price per cup is \$12.00 and orders must be prepaid. The minimum quantity needed to place an order is 100 cups. The deadline to purchase is **Sunday, March 19th** For more information or to place your order please see Sister Stacy Gregoire.

13. Join us for Pre-Service Prayer every Sunday at 7:30 am. Come and experience the presence and power of the Holy Ghost. Service begins at 10:00 am.

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5. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, **Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am** and Saturday's at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.

6. Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.

7. Monetary donations are being accepted to be a blessing to those truly in need. When making your donation to please write "*Gift for WOFICC CARES.*" **WOFICC CARES** about our church family! **WOFICC CARES** about our community! **WOFICC CARES** about the Islands of the Caribbean!

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
