

DO YOU LOVE GOD?

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Understanding God's love for us is essential, but knowing how to love God is equally as important. In Genesis 22, we see how God tested Abraham, revealing His character and faith. James 1 encourages us to consider it all joy when we face trials of many kinds. It's not just about enduring hardships — it's about how these experiences refine and mature our character and trust in God. Trials purify and prove the genuineness of our faith. It's an opportunity to demonstrate trust, obedience, and love for God, often leading to a deeper relationship with Him. It is a divine process that helps believers become "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" If we are having trials today, God wants us to know He has a purpose, and that He will not let us go through it alone. He loves us, but the question is do we love Him? How do we demonstrate our love for God?

OBEDIENCE

Jesus declared that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others as well (Mark 12:29-31). After Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus posed a significant question to Peter: "Do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15). It is not wrong to love other things, but the priority is our love for God.

The first mention of love in the Bible is deeply personal, highlighting Abraham's love for his son Isaac. This love sets the stage for a profound test of obedience: God's command to sacrifice Isaac in Moriah (Genesis 22:1-2). For over 25 years, Abraham's journey from hopeful patriarch to father of Isaac illustrates unwavering faith amidst trials. From leaving his homeland at 75 (Genesis 12:1-4) to the miraculous birth of Isaac at 100 (Genesis 21:5). Genesis 22 captures Abraham's ultimate act of obedience, trekking to Moriah to fulfill God's difficult request (Genesis 22:3-4). This act exemplifies the essence of Thomas à Kempis' words: "true obedience is immediate; anything less is disobedience" As John 14:15 suggests, our love for God is proven through obedience, which in turn deepens our intimacy with Him (John 14:21).

There are different ways we respond to God's commands — willingly, reluctantly, fearfully, or expectantly, and it all depends on our love for Him. Abraham's love for God fueled his obedience. When God calls us, our response reveals our heart. Today, consider: what is God asking of you and how will you respond to His command?

FAITH

Genesis 22:5-7 shows us Abraham's faith — he told his men that they will "worship and return to you." Isaac, a young man, willingly followed Abraham's lead towards the mount where they would perform the sacrifice. When Isaac asks where the sacrifice is, Abraham answers in v.8 that GOD WILL PROVIDE, demonstrating his faith in the Lord. Our job is to OBEY; we leave the consequences to God's hands! Hebrews 11:6 tells us that to please God, we must have faith in Him, believing in Him and trusting that He is "a

LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

HEBREWS 11:6

rewarder of those who seek Him." Faith always has its object: it is faith in GOD, on His character, and His promises.

A.W. Tozer said, "The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin." In Romans 4:20-21, Abraham was mentioned as not wavering towards unbelief but instead growing stronger in the faith during this time of testing. Hebrews 11:17-19 describes how Abraham responded in faith during this testing period, believing that God is able!

WORSHIP

Worship is the ultimate expression of our love for God. It means giving Him our best. In Genesis 22:9-10, Abraham followed through to the point of laying his son on the altar, even raising the knife to sacrifice him. Remarkably, Isaac did not flee; he trusted both his father and God. When adversity strikes, remember Romans 8:28: God works all things together for good, especially for those who truly love Him — those who obey, have faith, and worship.

Genesis 22:11-14 reveals God's intervention. Abraham's faith demonstrated that he feared God and withheld nothing precious from Him. God provided a ram for the sacrifice, and Abraham acknowledged Him as JEHOVAH JIREH, the God who Provides! Galatians 3:8-9 and 19 affirm that all nations are blessed through Abraham's son, Isaac. The story of Isaac in the Bible is often seen as a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, with several parallels drawn between the two:

ISAAC	JESUS
child of promise (Genesis 12:3), loved by his father	child of promise (Genesis 3:15) loved by His Father
only son (Genesis 22:2)	only Son (John 3:16)
miraculous birth, barren old mother (Genesis 18:11)	miraculous birth, virgin mother (Luke 2:1-7)
carried the wood for his sacrifice (Genesis 22:6)	carried the wooden cross for His sacrifice (John 19:17)
willingly submitted (Genesis 22:9)	willingly submitted (Luke 22:42)
sacrificed on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22:2)	sacrificed on Mt. Moriah (John 19:20, Hebrews 13:12)
A substitute was provided	no substitute; He was the sacrifice

If we are to love God, we must think of our "Isaacs" — it may be anything that becomes the center of our lives. Is God asking you to surrender something? Choose to obey by faith, and worship God fully!

DISCUSS THIS MESSAGE

Why do you think God allows testing?

What is it that God is asking you to obey but you are not yet obeying?

What is your "Isaac" that God is asking you to surrender to Him today?

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Who is Jesus to you?

Let's talk about it in the Welcome Center!

STEP INTO THE COMMUNITY

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN

ALL WOMEN

LIVE LOVE: GOD IS LIFE

(1 JOHN 5)

with Gerlie Zara

May 2, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

  ccfwomen2women

 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

B1G MINISTRY

SINGLES

WORSHIP NIGHT

May 3, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

  B1GMinistry

 beonewithgod

NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

THE SUPER WONDERFUL GOD

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

ONSITE: G/F CCF Center for ages 4-12

LIVESTREAM: YouTube & Facebook

(ccfnxtgen) for ages 4 to 12

ZOOM: for ages 7-12, message us to sign-up

Reach us via [facebook.com/ccfnxtgen](https://www.facebook.com/ccfnxtgen)

STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER

There's no better way to serve God than to serve His people!

NXTGEN  ccfnxtgen

B1G  beonewithgod

ACROSS  ccfacrossministries

W2W  ccfwomen2women

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

JOIN GLC LEVEL 1 NEW TRAINING CYCLE THIS MAY!

Enrollment is now ongoing for the following:

GLC LEVEL 1

Book 1: One by One

Book 3: The Holy Spirit

Book 4: CCF DNA

ONSITE: May 19, Sunday, 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM, Room 2A

ZOOM: May 22, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 2

Book 6: Basic Doctrines

ONSITE: May 5, Sunday 1:00 PM, Room 3A

ZOOM: May 9, Thursday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 3

Module 5: Soul Care

(open to all Dgroup leaders and potential leaders)

ONSITE: May 5, Sunday

1:00 PM, Room 4A

ZOOM: May 9, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Enroll now: bit.ly/GLCTrainings2024

GLC TRAINING IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING PLATFORMS:

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& GLC in Dgroups

Can't attend F2F or on Zoom? Use the Self-Paced Online format or do GLC in your DGroups!

Register: bit.ly/GLCinDGroupsSignUp

Enroll Here: glc.ccf.org.ph/online

Visit glc.ccf.org.ph for more info on GLC trainings and schedules.

HOST TEAM  go.ccf.org.ph/HTvolunteer

GLC  bit.ly/GLCvolunteers2024

SPORTS  bit.ly/CCFSportsVolunteerAM

YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13



SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHTS

5:00 PM

SUNDAYS

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN,
and 3:00 PM

ONLINE LIVESTREAM

 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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