

## ISAAC – PERFECT TRUST IN THE WILL OF GOD

*Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.*

Few people in the Bible yielded themselves to God the way Isaac did. Let us begin in the beginning even before he was born. Isaac's birth and name were entirely the will of God. What a comforting thought to know that one's existence, name and identity are all the will of God. This was a birth, childhood, youth, adulthood and old age willed of God. Like Isaac, our spiritual new birth has also been foreordained of God. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4). We also are the Isaacs of God; the chosen people of God. We cannot understand the feelings of rejection and pain experienced by those whose parents gave them up for adoption or were abandoned. But know for a certainty that our birth in the Lord Jesus Christ has been preordained and is celebrated in heaven just as Abraham, Sarah and all their house must have rejoiced and celebrated when Isaac was born.

*Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

We do not read anywhere in the scripture that Isaac allowed himself to become worked up and agitated by the mockery of Ishamel. It was not Isaac but Sarah who reacted with anger. "And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac" (Gen 21:9,10). Isaac, as always, resigned himself into the hands of the Almighty – God had assigned others around him to fix problems. "[[A Psalm of David.]] Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed" (Psalm 37:1-3).

Next, we read in the pages of scripture how Isaac humbly accepted his father Abraham's decision to find a bride for him. Isaac appears to always rest contented in the will of God. "And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell" (Gen 24:3). Imagine fathers doing such a thing today especially in our self-

centered, “liberated” West! The police would be involved, and the media would run headlines like “Father forces his son to marry a bride he had never met or seen”. Isaac is the picture of peace and harmony – it was like life was so agreeable and blissful to him. Isaac truly embodied the scripture which says, “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” (Proverbs 3:5,6). Obviously one reason Isaac was so relaxed was because he knew how blessed he was to have a father like Abraham who always thought about the will of God alone. “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” (Gen 18:19). God give us fathers like Abraham!

As he grew into adulthood, we see the same spirit of trusting in the Lord demonstrated in Isaac’s relation with quarrelsome neighbors. We note that Isaac dwelt by a well called Lahairoi – the well of the living one who sees me. Amen! “And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi” (Gen 25:11). This was clearly not coincidental. He truly rested assured in this knowledge – God sees him. Twice his servants dug wells only to be challenged by the herdsmen of Gerar.

**Gen 26:20** *And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.*  
**Gen 26:21** *And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.*

Sitnah means “strife”. Isaac was a man of peace; he did not like strife. Digging a well in those days with primitive implements was very hard work. Imagine finishing the work only to be told the well belongs to someone else. Had it been Abraham, perhaps there would have been a war – remember Abraham had trained warriors in his house. But Isaac was a man of peace, he left matters completely in the hands of God. He dug another well and this time no one challenged his claim to the well. “And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land” (Gen 26:22). Interestingly, it was after this third well that God appeared to him in Beersheba, as if to confirm that he should continue to peacefully trust in God. We read just a few verses later that he dug another well in Beersheba where God appeared to him.

**Gen 26:24** *And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.*

**Gen 26:25** *And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.*

I have waited to place this incident at the end as the greatest test of submission and yielding to the will of God – I am talking about the Mount Moriah story. This story is chronologically much earlier in the life of a young Isaac, but its significance is eternal. “And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” (Gen 22:2). The Bible does not tell us how old Isaac was and scholars suggest ages between 20 to 37. Either way, one thing is certain: Isaac could have easily overpowered his old father if he did not go along with his own sacrifice. This is the ultimate proof of Isaac’s humble and completely submissive spirit to the will of God. Remember that Abraham bade his two young servants stay behind some distance from Mont Moriah. In other words, the aged Abraham was alone with his young and physically very capable son. “And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you” (Gen 22:5).

**Gen 22:9** *And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.*

**Gen 22:10** *And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.*

All his life, Isaac yielded to the will of God. We never see him fighting or quarrelling with the will of God. Even when he realized that his son Jacob had cheated Esau of the blessing, Isaac accepted the will of God. He silently trusted in God when Ishmael mocked him and when the herdsmen of Gerar stole his wells and, in his final moment, as he may have thought, when he saw the knife of Abraham raised above his heart, he gave the world the greatest example of submission which could only be superseded by that of the Son of God himself, Jesus Christ, when Isaac succumbed to the will of God. In this act of unique submission, Isaac was a worthy representative or shadow of the ultimate type – the Lord Jesus praying and accepting the will of the Father in Gethsemane.

**Luke 22:42** *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*