

# Isaac:

## The Son Who Inherits

### All The Father Has Done And Is Doing

**As the children of Abraham to become a blessing to all people, we have to experience what happens in and through the lives of Abraham's son and grandson, Isaac and Jacob.**

**Genesis 15:1-3** [NIV] *“After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”*

The major question in Abraham's mind was *“who will inherit this land you have promised, God?”*

The only logical answer was his chief steward.

The inheritance law under which Abraham lived dictated this. This would have come far short of the hopes that Abraham had in the promise God had made him.

**Genesis 15:4-5** [NIV] *“Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars, if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*

Abraham's confidence in God was restored by God repeating the original promise He had made.

**Genesis 15:6** [NIV] *“Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”*

The restored faith in God brought the blessing of righteousness, making Abraham's life an acceptable sacrifice [offering] to God.

**We must always remember that as we are humanly, we are not acceptable to a Holy God, because of our sins.**

Just like the sacrificial animal under the Old Covenant had to be without defects, when we offer our life [as we should each day] to God we have to be without sin and Holy.

**How can this happen?**

a) **Confess our sins to God.**

**1 John 1:8-10** [NIV] *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

**If we feel we have no sins to confess we are telling God He is a liar, attributing Satan's nature to him whom God calls “the father of all lies.”**

**John 8:44** [NIV] *“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**”*

To feel we have no sins to confess lands us in Satan's camp!

b) **Ask for Christ's sacrifice to be a substitute for our own deserved death.**

**Romans 6:23** [NIV] *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**Death is all our sins can earn us.**

Our confession and request for cleansing by Christ's sacrificial blood opens us up to God being able to make us pure, without defects of sin.

c) **Ask for the bonus gift that follows our faith that God has promised will happen. Some of Christ's righteousness is credited to us as it was to Abraham.**

**Romans 4:18, 21-24** [NIV] *"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' ... 'being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.' The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness-- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead."*

Now purified by Christ's blood and made Holy by some of Christ's righteousness being credited to us, we become an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice to offer to a Holy God.

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship."*

That is what true worship is.

d) **Then ask for the active presence of the Holy Spirit.**

**Luke 11:9-13** [NIV] *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'"*

As Christians we all have the presence of the Holy Spirit with us.

What we ask for is the **active presence of the now ungrieved** [because we are sin-free] **Holy Spirit** in us.

Ask for the Holy Spirit to enter our lives and take over as we submit our will to His.

**Only in this way will Christ be able to live in us and continue to do His Work on earth in and through us.**

**But remember the only thing we did to receive this great blessing was to believe God's Word.**

**This is all Isaac did to receive the Promised Land.**

**Galatians 3:26, 29** [NIV] *"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus," ... "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Today we who believe owe everything to Christ, and yet in another sense we stand in the position of Isaac the son of Abraham by faith.

## **Isaac was the product of Abraham's faith**

**Galatians 2:20** [King James] *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

As we allow Christ to live in us by the active presence of the Holy Spirit, it is the faith of Jesus Christ that allows us to receive His righteousness, **not** our limited faith.

**Ephesians 2:8** [NIV] *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"*

### **Faith is a gift from God.**

**Galatians 5:22** [King James] *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"*

### **Faith is a fruit of the active indwelling of the ungrieved Holy Spirit.**

## **How did Isaac become the vessel that God was going to use to prepare the way for Christ's first coming as Saviour of the world?**

**Genesis 22:1-14** [NIV] *"Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!'" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. **So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.** And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."*

### **Isaac became the willing sacrifice having total faith in his father's word.**

*"God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering, my Son."*

In Abraham's mind at that time it was Isaac his beloved son who was going to be that sacrifice.

For it was God who in his old age had provided Abraham his son Isaac.

### **In Isaac we see what we individually and as a Church must be.**

- a) **Have total faith in our Heavenly Father's Word**, Jesus Christ and the promises God makes in that written word.
- b) **Be willing to be a living sacrifice.**

Paul uses the two sons of Abraham to show us the choice we have to make in our lives. One choice leaves us in slavery, the other frees us to inherit what God has promised to Abraham.

**Galatians 4:21-25** [NIV] *“Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.”*

**If we choose to do God’s work using our own intellect and our own natural gifts we are like the son of Abraham who was born to a slave girl by natural human conception, Ishmael.**

**Galatians 4:26, 28-31** [NIV] *“But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.” ... “Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son **born by the power of the Spirit**. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.”*

**If we choose to depend on God’s Holy Spirit to do His work in and through us we are like Isaac who was “born by the power of the spirit.”**

**With Isaac it was altogether a matter of time, God’s time.**

Abraham had to wait a long time for Isaac to be born supernaturally.

We often think it would be good if we could start a work for God sooner than in His time.

But when we come to know God, and have faith in Him as Abraham did, we know it is better to wait for God’s time.

**It is Isaac, not Ishmael, who is the one to fulfil God’s purpose and maintain His witness on the earth.**

Not only was Ishmael valueless to God’s Work but he fought against God’s Work.

**Romans 4:19** [NIV] *“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead, since he was about a hundred years old, and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.”*

When Ishmael was conceived Abraham’s natural strength was still with him.

But it was only after Abraham considered himself dead that Isaac was conceived supernaturally.

**We too need to consider ourselves as dead before we can believe fully in the God who gives life to those who die.**

**Romans 6:3-4** [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

For us to be an Isaac we have to die and allow God to give us a new life.

**Romans 6:8-11** [NIV] *“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

**A new life in Christ.**

**What does this mean?**

**Philippians 4:13** [King James] *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

It is Christ in us who gives us the strength to do all things.

**How does Christ do this in us?**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** [NIV] *“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**”*

**Paul knew that God had to keep him humble to enable him to be used by God. God used some physical defect to do this.**

**Philippians 2:13** [NIV] *“for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

**It is God who does the work in us.**

**John 14:17-18, 20** [NIV] *“the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” ... “On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”*

**Christ is in us doing the work by the active presence of an ungrieved Holy Spirit in us.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** [King James] *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: **therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.**”*

The Greek word translated “body” is “*sōma*” meaning the whole instrument of life, but Paul emphasises our spirit through which the Holy Spirit works, [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

**The more utterly impossible the task is for us to do by our own strength, the more glory we give to God as He does the work in and through us.**

This is how we glorify God.

This is how we give a witness to this world.

**This is how we the sons of Abraham will become God’s instruments for Him to fulfil His promise to Abraham that through His children would all nations be blessed.**