

Can You Do What Abraham Did

Rev. Edward Omojevbe Eruteya

Ever-Flowing Grace Assembly

Illustration: Abraham sacrificing a ram instead of Isaac.

My Advice: From this time onward own a copy of the Bible if you don't have one. Make a good study of it as you pray that God would open your eyes to see wondrous things out of the Bible (Psalm 119:18). Join a Christian worship centre in your locality for regular worship (Hebrews 10:24-25). Let the Pastor of the worship centre know you so that water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism could be arranged for you (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:44-48). Remain blessed.

Edward O. Eruteya's Conversion: On the day he yielded his heart to Jesus Christ as Lord, Saviour and Victor in 1970, no physical preacher stood before him preaching a message; it was the gospel tracts which he read that aided his genuine conversion. He knelt down alone at a corner in the afternoon, in one of the classrooms of his secondary school days as he invited Jesus Christ into his heart to stay. It has ever been pleasant, joyful and challenging; no regret, forward ever in that decision. The same can happen to you who have read this tract. Make up your mind to make it a date with the wonderful Jesus. Hurry, join me.

For contact with the God-ordained Ministry: Call (don't flash): 0803-3952947. Worship God with us at: Ever-Flowing Grace Assembly (Inc.), Plot 12 Block XLVI, Ayetoro Housing Scheme, Along Oyo-Ogbomosho Express Road, Oroki Area, Oyo. You'll be glad you did. We meet on: Sundays 9:00a.m; Wednesdays 5:30p.m; First Saturday of the month 5:00 p.m is Prayer for the Nations, Last Saturday of the month 12:00 Noon Empowerment/Faith Clinic Hour

CAN YOU DO WHAT ABRAHAM DID? by Rev. Edward O. Eruteya

Read Genesis 22:1-3, 9-13: 1Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, Abraham! And he said, Here I am. 2Then He said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you. 3So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 9Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac, his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! So he said, Here I am. 12And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me. 13Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

Now, someone said that he wants to sacrifice a ram as Abraham did. Some other people said they will follow suit. But someone else at a corner began to laugh at them and retorted: Can you actually sacrifice a ram as Abraham did? You must be joking. Look here, was your life designed to do what Abraham did? Were you specifically told to sacrifice a ram or offer your only son?(Genesis 22:3). Is God testing your faith? Is God using the same method He used for Abraham for you? Don't be emotional, please!

Okay, let's examine what Abraham did to know if people can emulate him or not. First and foremost, note that Abraham did not wake up out of sleep or dream and decide to sacrifice a ram or offer his only son. It was never his intention to do so. But it was at the instance of God testing Abraham's faith that he was told by God to take his only son, whom he loves to a specific place and offer him as a burnt offering. The specific place was on a mountain area, outside the entire community. He set out to do what God demanded of him. As he was alone (no one to restrain him), about to slay his only son, he was asked to stop by an angel. Why? He had passed the test God had for him. What was the test? That he feared God and did not withhold giving his only son as a burnt offering to God. Mind you, a burnt offering is an offering strictly for God. No human share in it as in distributing pieces of the meat to relatives and neighbours to eat.

Now back to the question: Can you do what Abraham did? If yes, then you must wait for God to show the specific place he will direct you to go and slay your only son with a knife as a burnt offering. If not, you don't just do things emotionally, which is not God's specific instruction to you; all in the name of religion. And even if you do, the sacrifice is a burnt offering, not that you kill a ram and begin to eat and share the meat with people in the community. By the way, the ram Abraham killed was a special one. It was miraculously provided. It was not a ram bought with money from the market. This begs the question: Is the ram, which people are killing today the type Abraham killed? However, the purpose of the sacrifice was that God was out then to test the faith of Abraham. Now, has God seen a faith in you that should be tested? Is it a faith that shuns materialism? Is it a faith that honours God above all that one owns? Is it a faith by which you can give God the most valuable thing in your life not withholding it?

Abraham's faith-test is somehow similar to the one given to a man by Jesus Christ in Mark 10:17-30. The man wanted to know what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus Christ said to him: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me (Mark 10:21). This man failed the test while Abraham passed his own. He was sad at Jesus Christ's word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions that occupied the place of God in his heart (Mark 10:22). Listen, can you pass the test of faith that God will give you? Have you sought first the kingdom of God and its righteousness? That is the test of faith for you today? Many have failed while only a few have passed it. Friend, are you one of the few that have passed this test of faith? Why? This is because many today are too materialistic in mind; more ready to serve mammon than God. But Abraham gave his only son to God; the most valuable thing in his life. If you cannot do that, then do not say you want to sacrifice a ram like Abraham deceiving your own self.