

**Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 (ESV)**

**Right Away, All the Way, and With a Happy Heart  
Looking to Abraham as a Model of Faithful Obedience**

Genesis 22 (ESV) contains a story that many of us remember well from our 3rd grade Sunday school classes. It highlights the faithful obedience of a one-hundred-year-old man named Abraham, who willingly offered the most precious thing he had -- his son -- as a sacrifice to God.

We have a dear couple in our church who tirelessly works to shape their children's obedience, using the model "obey right away, all the way, and with a happy heart." Abraham's example in this chapter seems to follow this model precisely and has been instructive to our family as well.

We see instructions in verses 1 and 2 that highlight exactly what God was asking of Abraham. Though lacking detail, His instructions were clear: "Take your son ... go... and offer him there as a burnt offering ... on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

For many of us, these instructions would have likely caused us to argue with God or at least to seek wisdom from others. In our fallen, rebellious nature, would we not have built a case for why God's instructions should have been disobeyed? Could it be that God was making a mistake? After all, Isaac was Abraham's promised son, specifically mentioned by name in Genesis 17:19. But, Abraham's response to this command is powerfully helpful.

**Right Away**

Verse 3 indicates that Abraham made obedience his top priority, when he "rose early in the morning." The text states that he even cut the wood he would need before he packed for the 3-day journey. When they came to "the place" (v9), Abraham immediately "built an altar there." Throughout this entire passage, there is never a hint of Abraham's delayed compliance.

**All the Way**

Verse 3 goes on to say that he quickly gathered all that he would need to satisfy the instructions he had received. He "saddled his donkey," "took two young men with him" as assistants, took "his son Isaac," "cut wood for the burnt offering," and "went to the place."

Further, in verse 6 the text notes that Abraham took "the fire and the knife." When Abraham built the altar (v9) he "laid wood in order." He had and did everything he needed to comply completely. Any deviation from this list would have likely impeded his ability to obey well.

**With a Happy Heart**

It is interesting there is absolutely no mention of Abraham complaining or grumbling about his assignment. In verse 8, when questioned by Isaac about the lamb for the sacrifice, Abraham simply notes that "God will provide ... a lamb..." Earlier in verse 5, within just a few minutes of plunging a knife into his son, Abraham told the two young assistants that he and Isaac were going "over there to worship." Not many of us when faced with the most gut-wrenching, confusing, and selfless task of our lives, would label our assignment as "worship" like Abraham did. Abraham's heart was clearly focused on ensuring nothing -- not even his attitude -- could hinder his ability to please his God.

The text (v12) notes that Abraham feared God and would not allow anything – even his precious son – to be withheld from his worship of God. As we all remember, Abraham complied so thoroughly that God sent an angel to intervene, preventing him from going further than desired (v11). And... because of his faith and obedience, God lavished His promised blessings on Abraham (v17-18).

### **Abraham or something less?**

I am powerfully and personally convicted by this passage. How many times does God ask us to be faithful with tasks, much less serious than Abraham's? Would God find me with a happy heart or whining and complaining as I parent a child, help a student pharmacist, coach a faculty member, serve at church, or even love my amazing wife? Perhaps I comply, but do so slowly, sometimes even creating distractions that delay my compliance. Would God consider me to be obeying right away? Other times, I create ways where there is just no way for me to complete all the things asked of me. Would God see me as complying all the way?

Will you partner with me in asking God to work in our own hearts so that we – like Abraham -- will quickly, completely, and joyfully do what is asked of us? May we – like Abraham -- be found as faithful servants of the King most-high, loving Him more than we love ourselves and the things of this world.

Jeffrey A. Bates, PharmD, Dean, CPFI Board Director  
Yellow Spring, Ohio

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## **APhA 2022 Annual Meeting & Exposition**

### **Gene Lutz - Bio**

### **REGISTER**



**APhA Annual Meeting:** March 18 - 21, 2022

**CPFI Prayer Breakfast:** March 20th, 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM

Sign up when you register for the meeting. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door.

**Cost:** \$25.

**Speaker:** Eugene (Gene) Lutz

**Presentation:** *'How to be a Sustained Release (SR) Christian Pharmacist'*

**Location:** Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center, Rm. 225C

## **CPFI 2022 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat**

Theme: **'Praising our God with Thanksgiving'**

"I will give you thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people." Psalm 35:18 (NKJV)

[Video](#)



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## 2022 CPFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE & NATIONAL STUDENT RETREAT



National Student Retreat:  
*June 1 to June 5, 2022*

Annual Conference:  
*June 2 to June 5, 2022*

*13.25 hours of ACPE approved  
continuing education offered*

**'Praising our God with Thanksgiving'**

*"I will give you thanks in the great assembly; I will praise you among many people."*

Psalm 35:18 (NKJV)

Covid-19: CPFI and Bonclarken have established procedures to help address Covid-19 concerns.  
Visit <https://www.wcpfi.org/annual-meeting>

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National Student Retreat – June 1 to June 5, 2022

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13.25 hours of ACPE approved continuing education offered.

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**CPFI Prayer Ministry**  
**Join us Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 5:00 PM ET!**



The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March 2020, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. In August 2020, we began meeting monthly on the 1st Sunday of the month. If you would like an invitation, e-mail Nena Lindrose at [Office@cpfi.org](mailto:Office@cpfi.org). She will send a reminder e-mail with instructions on how to join and some suggested prayer concerns during the week prior to the meeting. We hope you will join us **Sunday, April 3, 2022**, for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.

Fred Eckel, Past President

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