

Absolute Surrender, Full Obedience

Gen 22:1-19 (review in your own Bible)

NAU 2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.

ESV Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

1 Samuel 15: 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. 3 'Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. . .'"

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. . .

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." 13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD." 14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" 15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. . ."

22 Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

Key Point: A thriving spiritual life is marked by absolute surrender and full obedience to God.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Is it harder to start something you know you should do, or stop something you shouldn't? Why?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- What When you think about a "thriving" spiritual life, what qualities or habits come to mind? How does that compare to what we see in Abraham's life?
- What stands out to you about Abraham's response in Genesis 22:3 ("he rose early...")? What does this reveal about his heart toward God? What causes us to hesitate or delay in obeying God?
- How would you define "absolute surrender" in your own words? How is it different from partial commitment to God?
- In what ways does Romans 12:1 speak of absolute surrender?
- What are some subtle ways we try to give God only part of our lives?
- In what ways did Saul disobey God in 1 Samuel 15?
- What is the difference between full obedience and partial obedience? Why is partial obedience still disobedience?
- What does God call Saul's partial obedience in 1 Samuel 15:23?
- How are surrender and obedience connected? Why can't we have a vibrant spiritual life without both?
- What does 2 Chronicles 16:9 tell us about the benefit of absolute surrender and full obedience?
- Bonus Question: What pictures and foreshadowing of Jesus Christ being our sacrifice for sin do you see in Genesis 22?

Start doing: what is one area of life where God is asking you to obey?

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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