

"And Abraham Rose Up Early In The Morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God Had Told him." Genesis 22:3 KJV



Abraham had learned to completely trust God. Since God Knows all before the fact, the test was not for God's enlightenment, but for Abraham's. Did Abraham really trust God's intentions and Power or not? God Told Abraham, *"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;"* the son God had promised to multiply into a great people! Abraham's faith and trust is summed up in three words: *"rose up early."* Do you suppose he slept at all, or did he wrestle with doubt and sorrow in the night watches? Wondered if trusting God was even worth it? Abraham was not a superhuman! He was eyewitness to God's ability in the very son he was about to slay! Because he had witnessed the miracle of Isaac's birth, He simply trusted God to do the impossible and *"rose up early."* His faith is forever chiseled into God's Word with these words; *"Abraham believed God and it was Counted to him for Righteousness."* Abraham became *"the Friend of God!"* Isaac, an Old Testament type of our Lord, not only carried the wood, but submitted to being bound for offering. He had been well instructed in faith and practice for he asked, *"Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* Abraham prophetically replied, *"My son, God will provide HIMSELF a lamb for a burnt offering."* This event foretold the Sacrifice of God, HIMSELF, as He Carried a rough wooden cross to Golgotha's bloody knoll. I'm sure God looked forward through time upon Calvary's black day as He watched Abraham bind his only beloved son, knowing Abraham's anguish of soul paralleled His own, and by virtue of this fellowship of suffering, Abraham finally came to understand the essence of his own faith. *"He staggered not at the Promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in Faith, giving glory to God being fully persuaded that, What He Had Promised, He Was Able Also To Perform. Therefore It Was Imputed to him for Righteousness."* Faith is the soap and water of a clean soul! Obedience in the face of severe trial glorifies and pleases God! God Calls you, *"Friend!"*

Rising up in the morning dew,
To do what faith requires you do,
Preserves your soul on dusty sod,
And you will be a *"Friend of God!"* –CGP

God purifies your faith through tribulation of soul. Satan plies us with the siren song of doubt to lure us away from the safety found by faith in the *"Everlasting Arms."* Times of deepest anguish are where you learn Jesus Christ *"will never leave thee nor forsake thee,"* and the *"fellowship of His suffering."* Faith knows the Love of God!

"Therefore Being Justified by Faith, we have Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By Whom also we have access by Faith into This Grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, Hope: And Hope maketh not ashamed; because the Love of God Is Shed Abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost Which Is Given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ Died for the ungodly." Romans 5:1-6 KJV