

January 8, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

**Isaac Extreme
sacrific**

Tied up, placed on
a burning altar,
knife raised...
GOD PROVIDES!

Living life with

Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision



ISAAC ON THE ALTAR

Have you ever considered you life to be a sacrifice?

The Story of Isaac from Genesis 22:1-14
Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then 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." So 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. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the wood of the

burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then 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. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

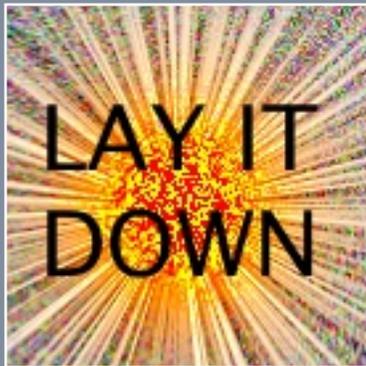
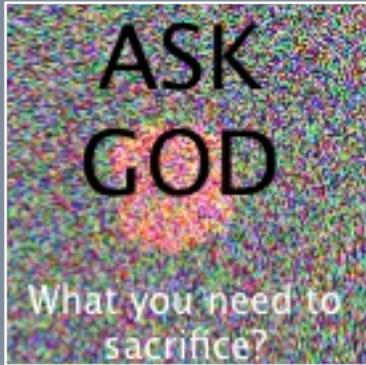
To read the rest of the story go to page 3



**Isaac on the Altar
Extreme Truth**

Isaac believed that God's plan was more important than anything, including his own life

STEP BY STEP



Follow these steps

Ask God what is blocking you from living the full life that He wants you to live. **Psa.139:23-24**

Lay it down, get rid of it dump it, run away from it. Being close to God is the best thing you will ever experience. **Heb.12:1-2**

Keep your eye on God. Just like keeping your eye on the ball, as you move closer to God, keep your eyes on Him! **Mt.14:22-33**

YOUR LIFE

Take a moment to think about the concept of extreme sacrifice. Use these questions to help you apply what you've just heard to your life.

☪ What did Isaac's performance on the altar say about sacrifice?

☪ Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son?

☪ Why is sacrifice important?

☪ When have you had to sacrifice something?

☪ What's the most difficult thing about sacrificing for you?

☪ What have you learned about sacrifice from this story?

☪ How will knowing about Isaac help you to sacrifice what God asks you to?

☪ What is God calling you to sacrifice?

☪ What keeps you from sacrificing what God asks?

☪ What will it take for you to obey and to follow through with that sacrifice?

HE WATCHED HIS FATHER

Notice Isaac on the altar. Doesn't mention that he squirmed. Doesn't say that he tried to get away. His eyes probably burned holes in Abraham's torso, though, trying to figure it all out. What about you? Often, God calls us for a sacrifice and we give up, look away, and forget. Discouragement takes over. Fear prevents our acting. We forget to keep our eyes on the only One who's trustworthy in a world that doesn't make sense. What should you be asking as a result of learning about Isaac? One question. Simple. What is God calling you to sacrifice? That's it. Take it seriously, and it will rock your world. Lay it down. Watch God. Burn holes in His torso. Keep your eyes on Him. If you can do that, your sacrifice will be extreme. Your silence will speak volumes. And the altar you're lying on will feel like a bed made from eternity's beginning. And made just for you. Extreme sacrifice.

Laying it Down

Sacrifice...
It's when you lay it down and accept it, and you keep going. You don't have to voluntarily give it up. But when you do let it go, you learn how to live as a whole person even without the thing you've laid down, because it was never really a part of you.



The Story of Isaac from Genesis 22:1-14 cont.

So he said, "Here I am."
And 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."
Then 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. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LoRD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

What if...

How do you think it would have worked if Isaac had fought his father, had run away and never spoken to him again? They wouldn't have seen God provide, and they wouldn't have learned that God is trustworthy.

REVIEW

the
ARMOR
of
GOD

belt of
truth
preparation of
righteousness
gospel of peace
shield of
faith
helmet of
salvation
armor of the
Spirit

The Belt of Truth:

Satan is the father of lies
Gods word is truth
Combat deceit with Gods truth

The Helmet of Salvation:

The helmet protects against a deadly strike
The source of total deliverance
Salvation is found in Christ alone

Feet fitted with the Gospel of Peace

Jesus is our preparation and peace
Christ brought us peace with God
We fight with Boldness and confidence

The Shield of Faith:

Used as protection against flaming arrows of the Enemy
Christ is the focus of our Faith
We Trust in Christ alone

The sword of the Spirit:

At close range it is a deadly weapon
Jesus is the word of God
Gods word is a powerful weapon against the enemy
Breast Plate of Righteousness:
Protects vital organs from attack
Jesus is our Righteousness
Christ Righteousness is the focus not our own

MODERN EXTREMES

Bradley's story of Sacrifice

Sacrifice. It's a word you hear a lot these days. Want to get a new winter jacket? Sacrifice some meals and bank the money you save. Want to get better in sports? Sacrifice time with your friends to work out.

But when you look at Bradley's life, sacrifice is something very different. Bradley has learned the meaning of sacrifice without knowing it.

What has he sacrificed? His family. No, God never directly asked him to give up his family.

But in a sense He did because He asked Bradley to keep trusting him, even though he lost them.

Since he was six months old, Bradley has lived in different homes with different people. The longest he's lived in one place with one group of people is five years. When he was six months old, his mom took off. Then he lived with his dad and grandparents. From times with his dad, then to times without his dad and just his grandparents, to times living with his dad in a ten-foot trailer with no plumbing, he's seen it all. Welcome to Bradley's life.

He's lived a lifetime in eighteen years. And being passed around from home to home, family to family, wasn't the end. Just last year, Bradley's dad was sent to prison for a year. And he's been living with a friend's parents for the last two years. Sacrifice. It's when you lose everything, accept it, and keep going. You don't have to voluntarily give it up. But when you do let it go, you learn how to live as a whole person even without the thing you've lost. That's Bradley. Here's what is so absolutely cool about Bradley. He's got no idea what he's sacrificed. Don't misunderstand; he's totally aware of what he's missing in his life. In fact, he's extremely bold in talking about his background. But when you ask him about the sacrifices he's had to make, he's quick to downplay how difficult his life has been. Here's what Bradley says about himself: "If you ask me, I'm the most blessed person in the world." Blessed? No stable, consistent home. Mom's vanished. Dad's in prison. You've lived in a ten-foot trailer with no plumbing. And you think you're blessed? In a time when teenagers don't look too



far for something to complain about, Bradley stands like a monument. He's lost almost everything that most people consider essential for survival. And he's taken all of that in and made it his motivation for survival. Sure, he's blessed. He goes to an incredible school. And because he has excelled in athletics, he'll be entering a top college in the nation soon. What's the lesson from Bradley's life? Maybe it's that in sacrifice, there's gain. You've got to give up things that are important, even essential, to gain unbelievable blessings. "I try not to think about the bad things. I try to get the good out of it." These are Bradley's words. Give it up. Let it go. And look for the good. That's extreme sacrifice.



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Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

**EXTREME FAITH
MAGAZINE**

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