

TITLE: FAITH GROWS DEEPEST UNDER THE KNIFE

Text: Genesis 22:1-19

Date: Sunday November 16, 2025

SUMMARY

This sermon explores how God uses trials to forge mature faith, as illustrated in Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham faced the most difficult test of his life, yet he obeyed without consultation, delay, or doubt, trusting God's provision. The journey to Mount Moriah demonstrates perseverance, steadfastness, and reliance on God's Word in the midst of suffering. The story prefigures Christ, the ultimate Lamb who bore our judgment, showing that obedience and faithfulness under trial lead to blessing and spiritual growth. The message encourages believers to endure hardships, hold fast to God's Word, listen to His guidance above all others, and see every trial as a divine assignment to cultivate deeper trust, endurance, and reliance on the grace of God.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- Opening: Waterloo and the lieutenant's bravery. How much more ought we fight for the eternal kingdom
- Context: Genesis 22, Jehovah Jireh, faith forged through suffering
- Main Idea: Faith grows deepest under the knife

II. EXPLICATION OF THE TEXT

- **The Agony of the Command (Genesis 22:2-3)**
 - Abraham's trial: obedience despite contradictions and fear
 - Courage and steadfastness in action
 - No consultation, no delay
 - Three days of mental struggle and deliberation
- **The Faith in the Impossible (Genesis 22:5)**
 - Abraham's hope and trust in God's provision
 - Belief in resurrection and God's power
- **The Deliberate Obedience (Genesis 22:9-10)**
 - Isaac's submission
 - Abraham's obedience

- **The Grace of the Father (Genesis 22:11-19)**
 - God's intervention and provision of the ram
 - Grace: endurance, sharpening, and substitution

III. APPLICATION OF THE TEXT

1. **Keep Marching When It Hurts**
 - Trials as the blacksmith's forge
 - Avoid spiritual distance, doubt, and disobedience
 - 1 Peter 1:6–7
2. **Hold the Line on God's Word**
 - Trust God's promises amid uncertainty
 - Use trials to deepen dependence on Scripture
3. **Tune Your Ear to Your Commander's Orders**
 - Seek God's guidance above all others
 - Discernment through the Holy Spirit
4. **See Every Mountain as an Assignment from God**
 - Trials as divine formation
 - Christ as the ultimate example of enduring suffering
 - Romans 8:18

IV. CLOSING

- God calls us up the mountain to build faith
- Climb with trust, knowing God walks with you

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what areas of life am I tempted to avoid or delay obedience to God?
2. How can I better rely on Scripture during my current trials?
3. What "mountains" has God placed before me that I need to see as assignments?
4. How does Christ's endurance and sacrifice encourage me to persevere in my struggles?
5. What practical steps can I take to ensure I do not waste the refining work God is doing in my life?