

**It only takes
one yes from
GOD to SHIFT
everything!**

TURNING OUR FAITH LOOSE!

HEBREWS 11:17-19

***A FAITH THAT CAN'T BE TESTED IS A
FAITH THAT CAN'T BE TRUSTED!***

Dr. Darryl T. Canady
RODMAN STREET CHURCH

TURNING YOUR FAITH LOOSE!

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DR. DARRYL T. CANADY

7.13.25

Title: Turn Your Faith Loose: Embracing Commitment, Compliance, and Confidence in God

Sermon Summary: In this powerful message, we're challenged to 'Turn Our Faith Loose' by examining the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac in Hebrews 11:17-19. This narrative isn't just about blind obedience; it's about developing a faith that's active, sacrificial, and transformative. We're reminded that comfortable faith is counterfeit faith. Real faith is proven not in the safety of our sanctuaries, but in the wilderness of uncertainty. The message urges us to move beyond selective obedience and embrace total surrender to God's will.

This powerful sermon challenges believers to fully commit to God's calling, even when it requires great sacrifice. Using Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac as a model, the pastor emphasizes the importance of immediate obedience, unwavering trust in God's promises, and the courage to step out in faith to build a "Community of Hope." The message encourages listeners to move beyond comfortable faith and embrace a bold, active faith that can transform lives and communities.

This level of faith requires commitment, compliance, concession, and confidence in God's promises. As we apply these principles to our lives, we're encouraged to believe for the impossible, to trust God even when we don't understand, and to step out in faith to build our 'community of hope.' This message isn't just about personal growth; it's about transforming our families, our neighborhoods, and our world through unwavering faith in God's promises.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Power of Committed Faith

This chapter introduces the concept of turning faith loose and the importance of commitment in our spiritual journey.

Chapter 2: Obedience: The True Expression of Faith

This chapter focuses on the importance of obedience in our faith journey, using Abraham's story as an example.

Chapter 3: The Sacrifice of Faith

This chapter delves into the concept of sacrifice as an essential component of faith.

Chapter 4: Confidence in God's Promises

This final chapter focuses on developing confidence in God's promises, even in the face of impossible situations.

Key Points:

- Comfortable faith is counterfeit faith; real faith is proven in times of uncertainty
- True commitment to God requires both emotion and execution
- Obedience to God should be immediate, painful if necessary, and complete
- Sacrifice proves the sincerity of one's faith and love for God
- Confidence in God's promises allows believers to trust Him even when circumstances seem impossible
- Building a "Community of Hope" requires full commitment, obedience, and faith in God's provision

Scripture Reference:

- Hebrews 11:17-19
- Genesis 22:1-8 (referenced)

Stories:

- Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah
- Personal anecdotes of the pastor's faith journey, including leaving a corporate job to enter ministry
- Stories of congregation members who demonstrated faith in challenging circumstances, such as health crises and career changes
- The pastor's vision and faith for establishing a school and community programs despite obstacles

SCRIPTURES FOR SERMON:

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses that align with the main themes:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Hebrews 11:17-19
2. Romans 12:1-2
3. Exodus 20:3
4. Genesis 22:2-8
5. Hebrews 11:1 (alluded to when discussing faith)

Alluded to or Thematically Relevant:

1. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Aligns with the theme of putting God first)
2. James 2:17 - "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (Relates to the theme of faith requiring action)
3. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will

make your paths straight." (Aligns with the theme of trusting God even when we don't understand)

4. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Mentioned when discussing saying "I can" instead of "I can't")

5. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - "For we live by faith, not by sight." (Alluded to when discussing walking by faith)

6. Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" (Aligns with the theme of sacrifice and commitment)

7. Luke 14:33 - "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples." (Relates to the theme of sacrifice and total commitment)

8. 1 Samuel 15:22 - "But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" (Alluded to when discussing obedience)

9. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Aligns with the theme of trusting God's promises)

10. Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Relates to the theme of trusting God even when we don't understand)

SERMON QUOTES:

A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted. See, if God can't test you, He can't trust you.

Comfortable faith is counterfeit faith. See, real faith is not proven in the safe and security of this sanctuary. It is proven in the wilderness of the uncertainty in the streets.

The people around you are either your circle or they are your cage.

God doesn't want you to love anything above him. Not your spouse. Not your children. Not your grandchildren. He doesn't want you to love your job more than him. He doesn't want you to love your house and your stuff more than him.

See, obedience is the truest expression of your faith. It's one thing to say, I trust God. It's another thing to do what God says when He tells you to do it. Even when it does not make sense.

See, sacrifice is the language of love. You don't measure love by what people say. You measure love by what people are willing to give up.

God's promises are not predictions, it is a guarantee that is sealed by His Word and backed by His power.

We can't build a Community Of Hope on doubt. You got to build on the foundation of God's promises.

You got to turn your faith loose when the math doesn't add up. You got to turn your faith loose when the doctor shakes his head. You got to turn your faith loose when the streets seem hopeless.

We are not just trying to survive; we are thriving and we are building something. We are building a Community Of Hope where the spiritual is strong, where the educational is empowered, where the economic is elevated, where the physical is restored, where the social is healed, and the wellness of our people is protected.

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Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Turning Your Faith Loose

Reading: Hebrews 11:17-19

Devotional: Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac demonstrates the ultimate test of faith. Today, reflect on areas in your life where God may be calling you to "turn your faith loose." Are there comfortable situations or cherished possessions you're holding onto too tightly?

Remember, true faith often requires stepping out of our comfort zones and trusting God completely, even when His commands don't make sense to us. Like Abraham, can you trust that God's promises will prevail, even if the path seems impossible? Ask God to strengthen your faith and give you the courage to obey, no matter the cost.

Day 2: The Power of Commitment

Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: God desires our full commitment, not just partial obedience. The sermon emphasized that "commitment is not just about your emotion. It's about your execution." Today, examine your level of commitment to God. Are there areas of your life you haven't fully surrendered? Remember, we're called to be "living sacrifices," offering our whole selves to God. This commitment transforms us, renewing our minds and aligning us with God's will. Pray for the strength to commit fully to God's plan for your life, even when it challenges your comfort or understanding.

Day 3: Obedience in the Face of Uncertainty

Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

Devotional: Abraham's immediate obedience to God's difficult command shows us that "true obedience does not require you understanding. It only requires you to trust." Often, we want to fully comprehend God's plan before we act. But faith sometimes calls us to

step out into the unknown, trusting that God will provide. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to obey, even though you don't see the full picture? Remember, "If God said it, I'll do it even when I don't get it." Today, commit to taking a step of obedience in that area, trusting that God will meet you there.

Day 4: Sacrificial Love

Reading: John 3:16-17

Devotional: The sermon reminded us that "sacrifice is the language of love." There's no greater example of this than God sacrificing His own Son for our salvation. Just as Abraham was willing to give up Isaac, God gave up Jesus out of love for us. Today, meditate on the depth of God's love for you. How does this sacrificial love change your perspective on your own life and relationships? Consider: what are you willing to sacrifice out of love for God and others? Pray for a heart that reflects God's sacrificial love in your daily life.

Day 5: Confidence in God's Promises

Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

Devotional: The sermon emphasized that "God's promises are not predictions, it is a guarantee." In a world full of uncertainty, we can have confidence in God's faithfulness. Even when circumstances seem to contradict God's promises, like Abraham facing the sacrifice of Isaac, we can trust that God will fulfill His word. What promises of God do you

need to claim with confidence today? Remember, "faith is not passive belief, it is a bold trust in the promises of God." Ask God to strengthen your confidence in His promises, especially in areas where you're struggling to believe. Stand firm on His word, knowing that He who promised is faithful.

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Small Group Guide: Turn Your Faith Loose

Key Takeaways:

1. Comfortable faith is counterfeit faith. Real faith is proven in the wilderness of uncertainty.
2. God sometimes tests our faith to see if we truly trust Him.
3. Commitment, compliance, concessions, and confidence are crucial elements of turning our faith loose.
4. Building a community of hope requires total surrender and obedience to God's vision.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Canady says, "Comfortable faith is counterfeit faith." What does this mean to you? Can you share an experience where your faith was challenged outside your comfort zone?
2. The sermon emphasizes the importance of commitment to God. How would you describe your current level of commitment to God? What areas of your life might need more surrender?
3. Abraham's obedience was immediate, painful, and complete. How do you typically respond when God asks you to do something difficult? What helps you obey even when it's challenging?
4. The pastor talks about making concessions for God. What is something precious that you might need to sacrifice to show God He is first in your life?
5. How does Abraham's confidence in God's promises inspire you? In what area of your life do you need to have more "holy confidence"?
6. The sermon mentions building a "Community Of Hope." What does this concept mean to you, and how can we contribute to building such a community in our local context?

Practical Applications:

1. Faith Challenge: This week, identify one area where you've been playing it safe in your faith. Take a step outside your comfort zone to trust God more deeply in that area.
2. Obedience Journal: Start a daily journal where you record promptings from God and how you responded. Reflect on what helps or hinders your obedience.
3. Sacrifice Inventory: Make a list of things you value most. Prayerfully consider if any of these have become more important to you than God. Ask for grace to realign your priorities.
4. Promise Meditation: Choose one of God's promises from Scripture that relates to a current challenge in your life. Spend time each day meditating on this promise and declaring your confidence in God's faithfulness.
5. Community Service: As a group, identify a need in your local community where you can practically demonstrate hope. Plan and execute a service project together.
6. Faith Testimony: Prepare a short (2-3 minute) testimony of a time when you had to "turn your faith loose" and saw God work. Share these testimonies at your next meeting to encourage one another.

Remember: Turning your faith loose isn't about having all the answers, but about trusting God completely, even when it doesn't make sense. Let's encourage each other to live with bold, active faith that impacts our communities for God's kingdom.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the concept of 'turning your faith loose' challenge your current understanding and practice of faith?
2. In what ways might God be testing your faith right now, similar to how He tested Abraham?
3. How can we cultivate the level of commitment and obedience that Abraham demonstrated in his willingness to sacrifice Isaac?
4. What 'Isaac' in your life might God be asking you to surrender, and how does that make you feel?
5. How does the idea of 'comfortable faith is counterfeit faith' resonate with your spiritual journey?
6. In what areas of your life are you practicing 'selective obedience', and how can you move towards full obedience to God?

7. How can we balance having confidence in God's promises with the reality of difficult circumstances?
8. What sacrifices might be necessary to build a 'Community Of Hope' in your local context?
9. How does the metaphor of faith as an 'elevator' that sometimes requires letting people off challenge your relationships?
10. In what ways can we demonstrate 'Abrahamic faith' in our modern context, especially when facing seemingly impossible situations?



GOD IS SO MUCH BIGGER THAN
YOUR HURT
YOUR MISTAKES
YOUR FEARS
YOUR PAST
YOUR REGRETS
YOUR WORRIES
YOUR PAIN
YOUR SHAME
YOUR DOUBT