

# The Faithful Servant

“Unknown by Name”



*“Faithful servants never retire. You can retire from your career, but you will never retire from serving God”*  
Rick Warren

*“And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.”*

Genesis 22:11

*“And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son.”*

Genesis 22:7

It is hard to read Genesis 22 without wondering why Isaac didn't object to his father's putting him on an altar bound with wood and ready to be burned as an offering. This is a real story of love and trust. Abraham loved his Lord enough to be willing to sacrifice his only son to be offered as a sacrifice, and Isaac loved both his father and his Lord to be willing to be offered as a sacrifice.

The Trinity is a hard thing to understand, but when you stop and compare this story with the Trinity there are many similarities. Our God offered his

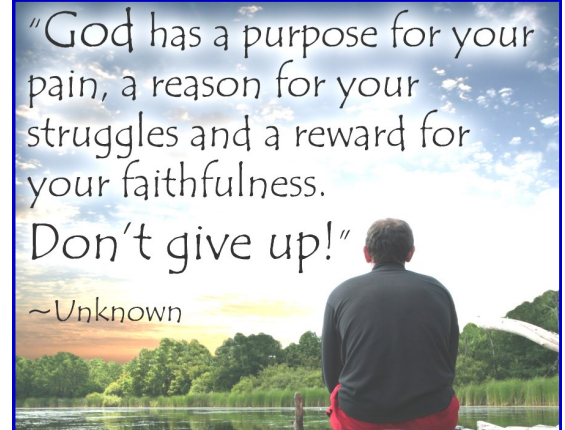
only son so that we may have eternal life, but we also must offer our life to Christ as our personal Savior in order to have this gift.

God calls to each of us every day. He is also with us every day. Some of the calls really wake us up. Some are so subtle that we go on our own way and tend to need nudged again. Abraham was very obedient, but some others in the Bible were more hesitant and some just rebelled.

In Isaiah we read that someone had to be sent to tell the people they needed to repent. It was not going to be a welcome speech and the people were not going to respond to it immediately, but Isaiah says *“I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”* Why volunteer for such a job?

Samuel was a little more hesitant. He heard a voice calling in the night and thought it was Eli whom he had been sent to help. Three times Samuel heard the voice calling. Each time he went to Eli and said *“Here am I.”* Samuel did not yet know the Lord according to the Bible, so he was a little confused with this calling. Finally Eli realized what was happening and told Samuel to reply *“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.”*

We all get calls, but we often rebel. Jonah really rebelled, but he eventually got the message! However, it took more than just a call in the night. If you recall, he did not want to go to



Nineveh and he rebelled. Eventually the men threw him overboard on the ship because they were having so much trouble and they decided it was that Jonah guy. But, the Lord wasn't done with him. God put him in the belly of a great fish for three days and then spit him out on dry land. Jonah got the message and went to Nineveh and many people came to know the Lord. God had a mission for him. Sometimes we tend to be like Jonah. We really don't want to do what God wants us to do. We try to do things our way and go places we want to go even if we think we should not. I am thankful that when I have made a bad decision God doesn't have me tossed into the sea and use force to straighten me out. But sometimes He does speak in a quiet small voice with a powerful message we really don't want to hear.

The Bible talks about the talents we have been given and tells us that if we use the ones He has given us and are faithful then we will be given more.

Do we really want more? The parable says that if we have been faithful over a little, he will give us much. Also, at the end of the parable we are told— *“For to everyone who has more will be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* Matthew 25:28-30. What are these talents? Do we want more?

Many times in our church we sing songs. Sometimes we need to listen to what we are saying. A song that makes a commitment when we sing it is called “Here I am, Lord”. It was originally written after Vatican Council II, but it has become a worldwide song sung not only in churches, but by many pop stars. Do they realize what they are saying? Do we realize what we are promising?

The verses are spoken by God, the creator, the lover, the Savior and tells us what He has done for each one of us. The chorus is based on the responses of Samuel and Isaiah and should be our response also.

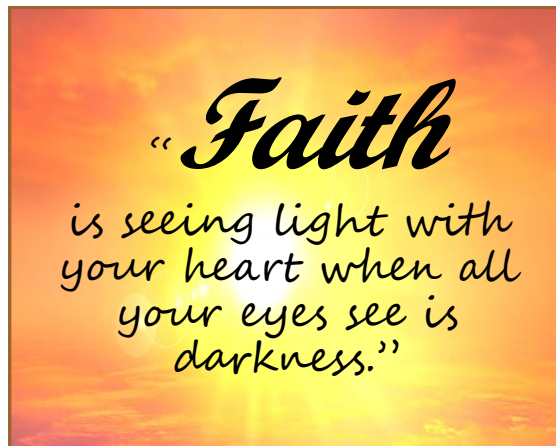
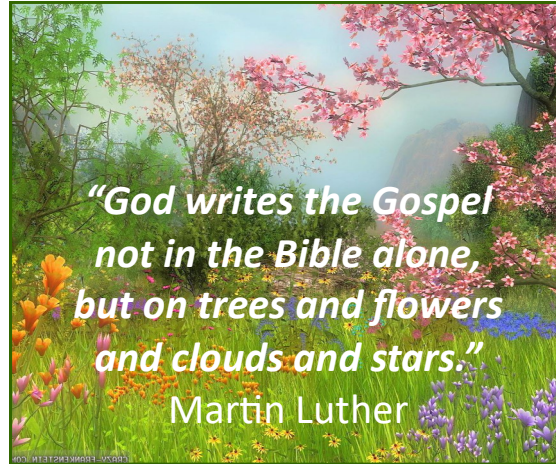
*“I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.*

*I who made the stars and night, I will make the darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them, Whom shall I send?*

*I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone; fill their hearts with love alone  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

*Chorus: Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”*



Prayer: Dear Savior of Mankind, we have heard You calling and turned a deaf ear. We have studied Your Word and done just the opposite. Please help us to be more attentive, to say “Here I am Lord” and mean it. Amen

1. When have you been called to serve? How did you respond?
2. Do we sometimes think we are being called too often? Why?
3. Do we ever have “hearts of stone?”
4. How have you been blessed when you answered the Lord’s call with “Here I am?”
5. Is there any way you can comprehend Isaac’s and Abraham’s obedience without faith?
6. Are we willing to say “I will go Lord if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart”?

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