

But the best example of a parent surrendering his child to God is that of **Abraham** offering Isaac on Mt. Moriah.

TEXT GENESIS 22:1-13

Abraham literally, totally, irrevocably gave Isaac back to God. Man, that had to be hard and painful for Abraham. After all:

- Abraham loved Isaac. **V.2** God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love, and sacrifice him ...”
- Isaac had been a MIRACLE baby. He was born when Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 100 years of age.
- Oh yes, just try to put yourself in Abraham’s place. It was incomprehensibly painful for Abraham to strap his dear son on an altar and a stack of wood, raise a knife to slash open that boy’s chest and throat, cremate the body and sit by as he smelled the stench of the burning flesh of his boy—and then watch that boy literally disintegrate into a pile of ashes!
- Whew! I don’t know if I would do that...even if God asked! But in a very real sense, I know I MUST DO THAT with all 3 of the precious children God has given me.

Do you know—the best thing Abraham ever did for Isaac was to tie him to that altar and to surrender him back to God?

- 1) Had Abraham refused to give Isaac back to God, he would have forfeited all God’s promises and plans for Isaac. Isaac would have lived and died in obscurity—a nomad, and a nobody.
- 2) Because Abraham obeyed and gave Isaac back to God, Isaac received the fullness of God’s best plan and promise for his life:
 - Isaac became a wealthy man.
 - Isaac became the forefather of God’s own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Isaac’s life is still having an impact on and blessing millions of people worldwide through his offspring—Jesus Christ.

And so, you and I need to learn from Abraham today. If we refuse and fail to give our children back to God—we may very well be forfeiting God’s best plan and purpose for their lives. And when we entrust our children back to God—we secure for them the covenant of God’s best purpose and plan for their lives.

FOUR ELEMENTS OF GIVING YOUR CHILD BACK TO GOD:

· What does it mean? It means *4 things*:

- 1) It is a CONFIRMATION of your supreme love for Christ.
- 2) It is a CLARIFICATION of ownership (God owns that child).
- 3) It is a COMMITMENT to raise that child under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- 4) It is a CLAIMING of God's best plan and promises for that child's life.

1) Giving your child to God is a CONFIRMATION of *your* love for God.

Matthew 10:37-38

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; **38**and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Not only a Confirmation...

2) Giving your children to God is a CLARIFICATION of ownership.

--When you give your child back to God, you are openly declaring that:

- This child is a gift from God.
- This child does not really belong to you.
- This child belongs to God.

(You have the privilege to love and train this child.
But this child is not yours—but God's!)

- Hey listen! That little boy or girl does not really belong to you—they belong to God! They are a precious gift from God, on loan to you.

Ps. 127:3 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (**KJV**).

Note: We'd better be careful how we treat and care for God's property!

Note: Let me tell you something friend. God did not authorize the state to raise children. And God did not authorize day care centers to raise kids. God authorized Mommies and Daddies to raise kids! Listen: Contrary to what Hillary would tell you, it does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a Mom and a Dad!

Not only a Confirmation, Clarification...

3) Giving Your Children To God Is A COMMITMENT to Raise Your Children God's Way!

Eph. 6:4 says we are to bring our children up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

- LISTEN...To give your child to God is not just a CEREMONY...It is a COMMITMENT. It is a commitment that you are going to:

- **Be a Godly parent.** (*Parent dedication...requires getting right w/ God*)
- **Teach this child of Christ.** (*they will need to be saved*)
- **Keep this child in church.** (*not on bus, but w/ you!*)
- **Love this child.** (*even if loving them means disciplining them/letting God discipline you!*)
- **Pray for this child.**
- **Train this child.**
- **Stay married for this child.** (*there are other reasons for this too, but this is a great one!*)
- **Make your home a holy place.**
- **Put away worldliness.**
- **Live a righteous life.**

Ex: I like what Joshua told the children of Israel as they settled into their new home, the Promised Land.

Joshua 24:14-15

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served...and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Not only a Confirmation, Clarification, Commitment...

4) Giving Your Children To God is a CLAIMING of God's plan and promises for that child's life.

- Isaac inherited God's blessings, protection and promises because his dad, Abraham, gave him back to God.

Genesis 22:15-18 (read)

- Your children are blessed by your obedience to God AND cursed by your disobedience to God. (*they have a free will, but you stack the odds in their favor or against them by the way YOU live!*)
- As you obey God with your life, and as you give that child back to God, you are posturing that child to receive God's very best for his/her life.

Pr 22:6 -

Train up a child in the way he should go: **and** when he is old, he will not **depart** from it.

...So, this is what it means to give your children back to God:

- 1) It is a CONFIRMATION of your supreme love for Christ.
- 2) It is a CLARIFICATION of ownership (God owns that child).
- 3) It is a COMMITMENT to raise that child under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- 4) It is a CLAIMING of God's best plan and promises for that child's life.

- This is exactly what transpired when Abraham took Isaac up Mt. Moriah and laid him on the altar to give him to God.
- 1) Abraham was CONFIRMING his love and fear of Jehovah.
 - 2) Abraham was CLARIFYING that Isaac really belonged to God.
 - 3) Abraham was COMMITTING to be a Godly parent.
 - 4) Abraham was CLAIMING God's plan and promises for Isaac.