

## *Fanning it into Flame*

Sunday, May 08, 2011

### **The Lord Provides**

Needing to make ends meet is a concern for all of us. With our changing economy it's not unusual to find it occupying more of our mental focus than we want. I recently filled up my Chevy Tahoe SUV for \$92.00. The troublesome part of that is my getting under 14 mpg, so I make regular trips to the gas station. Our paychecks can also seem to fall victim to this apparent downward spiral, making stress and anxiety commonplace. While we can wonder where it will end, we don't have to end in despair. We have the source of all supply who cares about us, however, the solution is not automatic. It requires "faith" on our part. **Hebrews 11:1** *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.* It is a confidence in the God who calls those things which are not as though they already were. (Romans 4:17) Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 that we live by faith and not sight. We must look beyond the apparent and trust in the promises of God. **Psalm 37:25-26** *I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.* <sup>26</sup> *They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.*

The Father of Faith, Abraham, left us with the most dramatic testimony. While the test he went through was not one that will ever be asked of us, the principle will. God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac, the child of promise that he had waited 25 years for its fulfillment. Here, years later, God is requiring his life in order to test Abraham. You would think Abraham would cry out in desperation and try to talk God out of such an unfathomable request, but he doesn't do that. The following morning he sets out with two of his servants, Isaac, the wood for the burnt offering, and the fire. After traveling three days he sees the spot the Lord told him about and tells his servants to wait. His statement to them reveals the faith he had. *"Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."* Notice he says, "We will come back to you," not, I will come back. Hebrews chapter 11 gives us commentary on Abraham's mindset. *Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.* He did not despair because he had a relationship with Father God and knew he was good. If God was calling him to do such a thing, God could raise him from the dead and still keep his promise.

When Isaac asked his father where they were going to get the lamb for the sacrifice, Abraham told him that God would supply it. And supply it he did. Just as Abraham was about to slay the boy, an angel of the Lord called out and stopped him, acknowledging Abraham's faithfulness. Then Abraham saw a ram caught in the thicket and sacrificed it. Then he called that place, **Jehovah-Jireh**, which means the Lord will provide. Abraham's trust in God's character enabled him to face the most difficult of circumstances knowing that God can be trusted. He keeps his word. He keeps his promises.

As we face difficulties in life, we must follow Abraham's example and trust in God's character. He will do no less for us. He has plans for us to prosper and prevail and have hope and a future. He has nothing but good intentions for us and cares about every aspect of our lives. We are not to complain about our circumstances. Rather, we are to trust that he is working on our behalf and wants us to partner with him in faith, praying through and believing him for our provisions, protection, deliverance, and well being. Our prayers are not to be whining sessions or pity parties. They are to be filled with confidence that God is at work in our lives. He doesn't respond to whining. He responds to faith. **Romans 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* **Romans 8:18** *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.* We must remember that the Israelites had to fight for their inheritance in the Promised Land. There were giants, heathen nations, and wild animals that they had to face. We also face our struggles as children of God and must fight the fight of faith. ***We are more than conquerors through him who loved us! (Romans 8:37)*** Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord our provider, will supply all our needs. Let's not fret or worry, but pray to the God who is for us. It's his nature!