

Reading: Genesis 18:11-19

*“He rejoiced having believed in God with all his family” (Acts 16:34)*

It is such a joy to have an atmosphere of faith at home. Abraham’s obedience was not only personal as an individual but also collective as a family. It is more difficult for a woman than for a man to leave a settled home life. Though the Bible does not clearly spell out anything concerning Sarah at this stage, it is well implied that she wholeheartedly agreed with Abraham when he told her of God’s call to leave Ur. She embraced Abraham’s call as her call too. We will have many more thousands ushered into mission fields if only the spouses would thus cooperate. Generally God calls the husband. The wife must follow her head. I cherish the phrase, “By faith Sarah also...”

Not only in the call of God to leave Ur but also in His commandment to offer Isaac, Sarah stood heartily with Abraham to obey God. Abraham’s rising up early in the morning to go to the place of sacrifice was by no means to escape Sarah’s knowledge! The Mount of Moriah was far off and it was only practical wisdom to commence the long journey by the early hours of the day (Gen 22:1-4). Sarah knew that if God could revitalise her dead womb, He was also able to resurrect her sacrificed son (Heb 11:11).

Several young people have not been able to go into God’s work because of the resistance from one or both the parents. Jesus took a serious view of this situation: “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones” (Lk 17:2). Blessed are the children who grow up in homes where obedience to God is the supreme priority. God foreknew and testified that Abraham would train his children also in obedience (Gen 18:17-19; Heb 11:9). Because Abraham was obeying God, Isaac obeyed his dad in cooperation. Otherwise which young man would agree to stretch himself to be bound and sacrificed? (Gen 22:6-9).

Let’s emulate the example of Patriarch Abraham and Matriarch Sarah to bring up children in obedience. In this world where people desire knowledge rather than obedience, what we need is more of obedience than knowledge. Without trusting a person it is not possible to obey him. Without faith there is no obedience. Faith becomes useless without obedience. For family life, faith and obedience are like wings to a bird.

*Faith begets faith, and obedience begets obedience!*

O God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!

We worship You for Your faithfulness that our forefathers have tasted in their generations. We thank You for the promise You made to Abraham that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. We rejoice that we have also become the children of Abraham because of faith. We thank You for justifying us by faith just as You made Abraham righteous by faith. What a privilege that we are also counted Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise, because we belong to Christ! The moment we receive Christ, like Zacchaeus, You call us sons and daughters of Abraham. Truly Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. All that's within us, bless Your holy Name!

As we rejoice over this privilege, enable us also, O Lord, to walk in obedience before You like Abraham. We are challenged by his immediate and implicit obedience. We confess that our obedience is not wholehearted and total. We are sorry that we ask hundred questions before taking the first step of obedience, whereas Abraham went out in obedience to Your call, not knowing where he was going!

You are calling us, dear Lord, to look to Abraham our father, and to Sarah who bore us. Yes, Lord, they are the rock from which we were quarried, and the hole of the pit from which we were dug. Besides walking in faith and obedience, help us, like Abraham, to teach Your ways to our children and bring them up in obedience. Let's not be negligent of the holy influence we can exert on their lifestyle and behavioural pattern. Let our children be like the boy Isaac and the Boy Jesus!

Father God, we thank You for the example of Abraham who was willing to sacrifice his only son of his love, at Your Command. You gave up Your only Son of Your love to save us from sin. Help us parents, O Lord, to send forth at least one of our children to serve You sacrificially in Your vineyard. Let our Churches be filled with missionary parents! We bless You for the parents who have already sent forth their promising sons and daughters to the frontiers. Let there be a missionary revival in our Churches which would propel our youngsters to frontiers to liberate those in bondage and darkness.

In the Name of Christ the unbeatable Volunteer, Amen!

*(Ex 3:6; Gen 12:1-3; Gal 3:6-8; Gal 3:29; Lk 19:9; Psa 100:5;  
Heb 11:8,17,18; Isa 51:1,2; Gen 18:17-19; Gen 22:1-3; Jn 3:16)*