

The Lord Will Provide



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What would you dare to try if you were sure the Lord would be there to help you? What have you avoided by saying, “That’s impossible”? Think of an impossible person, an impossible relationship, an impossible assignment, an impossible obstacle to overcome. We will tackle things we can’t avoid, but most of us live our lives within the narrow limits of what we are sure we can handle by ourselves. We live as if we don’t need God. How differently would you live if you were sure that God would unleash His mighty power the same way He did in the lives of the heroes of the Bible... like Abraham?

The Lord called him, “My friend.” But friendship with God didn’t come easily for Abraham. The Lord gave him the gift of faith, but had to keep intervening in his life until he was able to say those great words of faith, “The Lord will provide.”

The Lord had great plans for him, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” What a promise! But acting on it required Abraham to take a risk. He had to leave everything. He had nothing to go on except the promise of God.

He went and the Lord blessed him! The Lord led him to the land and said, “All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.” The Lord wanted him to see what would be possible. And the friendship between God and Abraham grew stronger.

The years went by and Sarah remained childless. Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 when the Lord repeated His promise. He showed Abraham the stars in the sky and told him to count them if he could, but that was impossible! “So shall your descendants be!” God promised!

Abraham believed the LORD and he credited it to him as righteousness. That’s one of the most important verses in the Old Testament. God provided Abraham with the only thing that can please Him...the gift of faith... the faith he needed as he grappled with this impossible promise of a son. Abraham and Sarah laughed when they heard again the impossible promise...until that son was

born and they named him Isaac which means “He laughs.” Now the Lord’s impossible promise was fulfilled.

Isaac was Abraham’s pride and joy, his hope for the future, his life! Try to understand Abraham’s struggle when the Lord asked the impossible of him, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” Abraham surely questioned, “Why God? How can all of your promise come true without Isaac?” God couldn’t have asked any more of him.

God will never ask you to sacrifice one of your children. And yet we have all been confronted with the same kind of dilemma. We have been given the gift of faith. We have heard God’s wonderful promises like the promise in Romans 8 that assures us... nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yet we face trouble, illnesses, sorrows, and the seemingly impossible crises. We are asked to take “impossible” risks. We are haunted by the questions, “Why? Lord does your promise stand?” That same chapter assures us that God is for us and asks, “If God is for us, who can be against us? If God is for us is anything impossible?”

We must dig deeper to understand. Faith is trusting that God will provide. He will give us exactly what we need at the right moment to see us through...to meet that test.

Climb Mount Moriah with Abraham and Issac. The boy became increasingly concerned, “The fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Issac trusted his father, and Abraham trusted God even more, “God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” They walked on. On top of the mountain, Abraham built the altar, arranged the wood, and began to tie up his son. Feel what was in Abraham’s heart when his eyes met his son’s and the fatal moment came. He took his knife...raised it... and just at that moment when he was about to bring it down into Issac’s chest, the Lord called, “Abraham, Abraham.”

Not a moment too soon...not a moment too late. The words were perfectly timed. God said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” Abraham had taken the ultimate risk, and God was faithful to His promise.

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approximately twenty volunteers to staff the outpost each month during its hours of operation (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.). In addition there are scheduled evening classes and activities just about every night of the week, as well as on weekends. God’s mercy knows no bounds and we are discovering anew the multitude of opportunities to share it!

“If you are ever in Carroll, stop in and visit with us at 225 4th Street in the Thomas Plaza downtown. We’ll have a cup of coffee and a homemade goody ready when you come!”

How about taking a walk in your mission field? God will open your eyes and heart to the opportunities and adventure of sharing His mercy and grace!

Roster Changes

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. Paul Frank, Manilla, to Mesa, AZ, 1/1/10
- Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer, St. Paul, Ireton, to Orchard, NE, 1/1/10
- Rev. Erland Asmus, Auburn/Lake City, to Afton, MN, 1/11/10
- Rev. Jonathan Conner, Sanborn, to Manning, 4/25/10

CANDIDATES ASSIGNED

- Jesse Burns, Fort Wayne, at St. John, Sanborn.
- Ross Fritz, Saint Louis, at Trinity, Manilla.
- Seth Kaiser, Saint Louis, at Trinity, Glenwood.
- Christopher Maronde, Fort Wayne, at St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit.
- Adam Peck, Saint Louis, at St. Paul, Ida Grove (assistant).
- Nathan Peitsch, Saint Louis, at St. Paul, Fort Dodge (associate).
- Craig Zandi, Fort Wayne, at Pilgrim, Lake City/Zion, Auburn.

VICARS ASSIGNED

- Devin Kimball, Saint Louis, to Trinity, Des Moines.
- Lance Klamer, Fort Wayne, to Trinity, Marcus/Pilgrim, Quimby.

CALLED TO GLORY

- Rev. Richard Arndt, Cherokee, 5/4/10.

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

- Rodney Dunker, Odebolt, 2/25/10.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Jonathan Baumgartel, Zion-St. John, Paullina, to Trinity, Cedar Rapids, IA.
- Jeff Fick, Trinity, Boone, to Elm Grove, WI.

CHANGE OF STATUS

- Kelly Helm, Storm Lake, active to non-candidate, 6/1/10.

TRANSFER OUT

- Kalika Peske, Moorhead, MN, candidate, to Minnesota North District, 3/12/10.

TRANSFER IN

- Sarah Gunn, Sioux City, non-candidate, from Southeastern District, 6/1/10.

CALLED TO GLORY

- Fred Krueger, EM, Storm Lake, 5/18/10.

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Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket. God did provide. Imagine his joy! Here was the sacrifice that would take Issac’s place. He offered the lamb in place of his son and called the place “YAHWEH jireh ... The Lord will provide.”

Those words have meant so much to so many people in times of difficulties. This story is about our deepest need to trust God. It reassures that God will be there. He will intervene...at just the right time. He will provide.

This story takes us forward to another mountain, Mount Calvary. There our God did what was truly impossible. He did what He had asked Abraham to do. He gave his own Son as a sacrifice. He provided the lamb...the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world... your sin and mine. And then He raised Jesus from the dead as our victorious Lord of life... with another promise that seems too good to be true...the promise of everlasting life. There was a cross in God’s heart when He intervened with Abraham. And the same cross-shaped heart beats for you and me. St. Paul asked, “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

There is a promise! We can dare to do everything, for our God has promised that He will provide us all things! He calls us His friends. He has provided us with the gift of faith. He has provided us a Savior...and our salvation is sure.

Jesus is Lord of the impossible. He can...He will...provide.