

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Hebrews 11:8-10 “By *faith* Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

Quote: “Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest; heaven so real that we must have men there, Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall be to make the Man of Sorrows the Man of Joy by the conversion to him of many.” J. Hudson Taylor

When God called him to leave all that he knew and to journey into the unknown, Abraham obeyed. His obedience revealed a heart of faith that was willing to heed God’s call. For the obedient Christian, life is all about pleasing God; it is about doing what He wants, when He wants, where He wants, and how He wants for why He wants—to display the glory of His grace and to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ in the gospel. David said, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for *the LORD upholds him with His hand.*”¹

David Livingstone left the comforts of England to be a missionary to Africa. He said, “God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds my heart to Yours.”² David Brainerd prayed, “Here am I, send me; send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage pagans of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort on earth; send me even to death itself, if it be but in Thy service, and to promote Thy kingdom.”² “When James Calvert went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the ship captain tried to turn him back, saying, ‘*You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages.*’ To that, Calvert replied, ‘*We died before we came here.*’²

Jim Elliott, one of five missionaries martyred by the Auca Indians, wrote, “The will of God is always a bigger thing than we bargain for, but we must believe that whatever it involves, it is good, acceptable and perfect.”² Nate Saint, who died alongside Jim Elliott, wrote, “People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives ... and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted.”² These missionaries shared a passion to do the will of God.

All of life is to be about glorifying Him Who is our Source, our Savior, our Strength, our Sustainer, our Sovereign. May we be faithful in our willingness to heed His commands no matter where that obedience may take us! To be willing to do so, we must “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”³ **Consecrate** yourself to acknowledging God’s

Abraham’s Willingness

Word in your head, assimilating God’s Word into your heart, applying God’s Word to your habits and thereby authoring God’s Word into your history.⁴ **Confess** all known sin.⁵ **Call** upon God for wisdom.⁶ **Concentrate** on life from God’s point-of-view.⁷ **Commit** your way unto the Lord.⁸ **Consider** providential circumstances.⁹ **Content** yourself with actively serving as you patiently wait upon the Lord like Abraham’s obedient servant who said, “*I being in the way, the Lord led me....*”¹⁰

Perhaps no passage of Scripture guides the willing believer better than Proverbs 3:5-7. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And *He shall direct your paths.* Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.” Trust, dependence, humility, fear of God and the pursuit of holiness through His enabling power shall lead the willing heart to a life of productivity and peace for the glory of God and the eternal good of men.

¹ Psa.37:23-24 ² Missionary Slogans ³ II Peter 3:18 ⁴ **Consecrate:** “dedicate to a sacred purpose”; **Assimilate:** “to take into the mind and thoroughly understand”; Psa.119:1-16 ⁵ Psa.66:18; I Jn.1:8-10 ⁶ James 1:5-6 ⁷ Col.3:1-3 ⁸ Prov.16:3; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7 ⁹ Prov.16:9; Jer.10:23 ¹⁰ Gen.24:27; Psa.27:14; Isa.40:31