**It’s Thrive Time Podcast Teaching Notes**

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**Series:** Determined and Intentional Thriving In Perilous Times

**Lesson** 4: Determined and Intentional: The Life of Abraham- Ready-Faithful-Friend of God

**Text:** Genesis 11- 25, Hebrews 11: 17-19, James 2:21-26

**Who Was Abraham?** Son of Torah, Abraham was born around 2170 BC in Ur. Ur was known as “one of the greatest cities of the world”,

Abraham had 2 brothers, Haran and Nahor. Abraham was the nephew to well known Bible character, Lot. Abraham married his half-sister, Sarai.

When Abraham was 75, God called him and with that calling came a great promise.

**Abraham’s Relationship with God**

Abraham’s obedience brought the promised blessing from God. This blessing was so great that it became necessary for Abraham and Lot to part ways due to lack of room to hold all that both had.

As Abraham grew older, he became more concerned about having a son. How could he inherit Canaan and become a great nation without a descendant? In response, God confirmed to Abraham that indeed he would have a son, and indeed, he would inherit Canaan.

God made a covenant with Abram, and gave him a new name “Abraham”

God also gave Abraham’s wife a new name “Sarah”

Abraham was to confirm this covenant by submitting to circumcision, as did all the males in his household. Abraham obeyed.

Abraham was an Intercessor- At the age of 99, Abraham entered into a conversation with God, who revealed to him that he was going to destroy the wicked city of Sodom. Abraham begged God for mercy, to which God responded with a willingness to grant. However, the wickedness was so great, even Abraham’s request for mercy was not sufficient enough to cover the sins within that city. God did unleash incredible judgement upon Sodom, but God protected Lot. Lot fled to the mountains where he lived out the remaining years of his life as a hermit.

When Abraham was 100 years old, he received his promise, a son, whom he named “Issac” which means “he laughs”

**Abraham’s Faces His Greatest Test of Faith** - God calls Abraham to take his promised and offer him as a burnt sacrifice unto the Lord. Abraham’s response was not one with words, but action. “Early the next morning”. His response was one of absolute and immediate obedience. His response was an act of worship. His response was an act of faith.

**Lessons From the Life of Abraham**

1. **Abraham was ready**- “Here I am, Lord” - What does “ready” mean? Are you “ready”or would you have to ask God for more time? Are you so caught up in the world that you wouldn’t even hear His voice or recognize it? Do you have so many worldly obligations (financially in debt to worldly possessions). Are you so in love with the world and have so many commitments, that your heart would be divided?
2. **Abraham obeyed even when, humanly speaking, it made no sense** - Do you have to have it all figured out before you can give your “yes” to God? Do you have to know the last step before you even take the first one?
3. **Abraham’s obedience was immediate** - Would your answer be something like this “God, I can do that next week”. Do you answer “yes” to coffee meet ups, overtime (because, after all its time and a half!) quicker than you say “yes” to God?
4. **Abraham didn’t involve the opinion of others when he clearly knew what God was asking.** Godly counsel is good but often we “seek advice” hoping for someone who will give us what we want to hear.
5. **Obedience is an act of worship**- Everything we do in life should be an act of worship to our God. Even in our most difficult days or moments, we can and must worship God. We worship God not because of how we feel or what He gave us, but because of who He is. Circumstances do not have any authority over our obedience to God.
6. **Abraham had faith** - As we read about this test, Abraham doesn’t speak about what deep faith he has, but it is so loud it is deafening! He announces that he and his son (the one that he is supposed to sacrifice) are going to the mountain to worship and they would return. When Issac asked him where the sacrifice was, we read of no hesitation, no tripping over his words…..”God will provide for Himself a lamb.e it all figured out before you can give your “yes” to God? Do you have to know the last step before you even take the first one?