



Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we find ourselves in the wake of this year's Fourth of July celebrations, I am reminded of the story of Abraham (Genesis 22:2-18), an account of faith tested, and of unwavering trust in God during trying times. This month, I've been reflecting on the impossible journey Abraham embarked upon, preparing to offer his beloved son, Isaac. It is a story that resonates with the spirit of courage and conviction that shaped our nation's founding.

Much like the brave revolutionaries who dared to challenge the mighty empire of England, despite being fewer in number, lacking formal training, and facing unstable governance, their fight was rooted in an unshakeable faith in the cause of justice. They trusted in God, embodying the sentiment of "In God We Trust," as well as in their mission and cause, just as Abraham trusted God, even when the outcome seemed unimaginable.

In our own lives, we are often called to take that same leap of faith. Abraham's three-day journey to Mount Moriah was filled with anguish, uncertainty, and reflection. Imagine the turmoil he felt, knowing he was called to sacrifice his own son, the child of his hope and promise. Yet it was in that moment of testing, just as he prepared to fulfill the demand, that God intervened in his situation. The angel's voice broke through his bewilderment while he was ready for action, commanding Abraham to stop and telling him that God had provided a lamb for him to sacrifice instead of his son. This reminds us that God watches over us, waiting for the moment we are willing to surrender our fears and doubts to Him.

As we navigate the complexities of our lives, you may find yourself at a crossroads, grappling with decisions that feel heavy and unyielding. Are we, like Abraham, willing to go the distance? Do we trust that our needs will be met, even when the path ahead is unclear? He is our steadfast strength and comforter, always ready to assist us in our weaknesses (Hosea 11:8). Each challenge we face is an opportunity for growth in faith, a chance to reaffirm our commitment to God and His plans for us.

As we honor and celebrate our country's independence, let us also embrace our spiritual independence—the freedom to trust in God, to serve Him, and to abide by His will. May we carry forward the spirit of those who bravely fought for freedom, applying the same commitment to our faith that they displayed. Let us take that leap into the unknown, trusting God and believing that when we go the distance in our faith, He will meet us there. He is calling you; will you heed that call?

Wishing you all a joyous Fourth of July!

Pastor Owar

