

## INTRODUCTION

1. Because true faith is rooted in God, our faith grows as our relationship with God grows
2. Our journey of faith is one of growth in trust, rest and sacrifice
  - a. At the beginning of our journey we trust God to provide for our needs
    - i. Our perception of Him is as our Provider
    - ii. Our songs are those of thanksgiving thank for what He has done
    - iii. Our focus is really still on ourselves
  - b. Further along the journey we see Him as our Sufficiency
    - i. Our perception is now that our relationship with Him supersedes all else
    - ii. Our songs are songs of worship, focusing on Who He is
    - iii. Our focus is on Him
  - c. As we journey on and mature, we understand that He is our Lord and Master.
    - i. Our perception is that submission to His will and His plans is paramount
    - ii. Our songs are those of consecration and obedience
    - iii. Our focus is to live our lives serving Him and let others experience Him through us

## **ABRAHAM “Blessed to be a Blessing” (Genesis 18:18)**

1. Saw God as one who provides
  - a. He was promised a son (Genesis 15: 1-6)
  - b. He waited and became impatient (Genesis 16:1-2)
  - c. He decided to act to make the provision come to pass (Genesis 16:3-4)
2. Learned to be a “friend of God”
  - a. He had an encounter with Almighty God and a covenant sign was established (Genesis 17:1-2)
  - b. He had his name changed – a greater blessing and responsibility entrusted to him (Genesis 17:3-8)
  - c. He was given a “covenant sign” (Genesis 17: 9-14)
3. Submitted fully to the Lord’s will
  - a. He believed and obeyed God’s word concerning his gift of a son (Genesis 17:15-22)
  - b. He accepted God’s judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:22-33)
  - c. He obeyed the Lord when commanded to sacrifice his son (Genesis 22:1-18)

And Abraham become known as the Father of Faith among all nations (Genesis 18:18)

## **PETER “Transformed to be a Blessing” (Matthew 28:19-20)**

1. Peter was first attracted to Jesus because of His provision (Matthew 5:8)
2. Peter saw Jesus as his all in all (John 6:68)
3. Peter laid down his life for His Lord (John 21:15-19)

And Peter obeyed and the Gospel began its work among all nations (Matthew 28:19-20)

## CONCLUSION

The depth of our relationship with the Lord and the level of our surrender to Him will determine the scope and impact of our lives upon eternity.