

Nehemiah Project

21 Daily Devotions

DEVOTION #6 - Friday, October 14

This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number. GENESIS 22:16-17A, NLT

When Abraham surrendered Isaac, God provided a ram to take his place. Not only did God give Isaac back, but He also pronounced an incredible blessing over Abraham's life. Notice what God says in these verses, "Because you have not withheld your son... I will surely bless you."

There's a principle here: God does not ask us to surrender something simply to test us, but to bless us. If Abraham had withheld Isaac from God, he would have kept his son, but forfeited the blessing. But by freely surrendering to God what was dearest to him, Abraham received Isaac plus the blessing. You see, God can't bless what we hold onto with tight fists. But when we freely give, then our hands are open to freely receive from God.

Is there something God may be asking you to surrender? Take comfort in knowing that when you obey God and lay it down, you will find a life, a joy, and a peace so much greater than you could imagine. And it will position you to receive God's greater blessing in return. Only the life of surrender brings the blessing of surrender.

God, everything I have comes from you. Therefore, I gladly surrender it back to you for the sake of obedience and to see you work in and through my life.