

REFINED IMMERSION IN THE PROPHETIC WORD

Series: Genesis – The Beginning

Message 32

God Tests Abraham

Bible Reading: Genesis 22:1-24



This material is intended to help you practice immersion in the prophetic word in your daily living and church meetings. We highlight some points from the notes of the message given by brother Pedro Dong for you to ruminate, understand, and apply. Read each day's passage prayerfully and highlight its key words. Speak, repeat, emphasize, and proclaim the key words. The refined immersion of the word aims to make us enter the depths of the feeling of God by speaking the word to us and making us feel in our spirit what His feeling was at the moment He spoke it. Quieting ourselves, we seek what is the direction received in the immersion text and what is its admonition to us, that is, in what aspects we are at fault with the Lord. After understanding the Lord's feeling and seeking light as to what He really wants to talk to us, we must transform this feeling into our prayer, with the purpose of putting it into execution.

MONDAY

1. In Genesis 21, we find accounts of two wells. The first, from which Hagar and Ishmael drank, highlights the vital human need for water. The second, however, enabled Abraham's survival, allowing him, in the end, to fulfill God's will. Through his descendants came Christ, who brought us the living water, which we can freely drink through faith (Genesis 21:15-16, 19-20, 25, 30, 32-33; John 4:10).
2. The water that Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for, only quenched physical thirst, is just like the water from the well that saved Hagar and Ishmael. However, the water that Christ brought is symbolized by the well that Abraham claimed from Abimelech: the living water, which fully satisfies us and generates within us a fountain springing up to everlasting life (Genesis 21:19, 25; John 4:10-11, 13-14).
3. God waited approximately four thousand years for the promised descendant to be born to Abraham. Jesus came to Earth to bring living water to mankind, but it was necessary for Him to die on the cross, accomplishing redemption and bringing humanity back to God. In His resurrection, God glorified Him, and He became the life-giving Spirit. Now, He can dwell in all who believe (John 7:37-39; 1 Corinthians 15:45).
4. "An evil genetic load has been injected into us, and this leads us to fulfill the desires of the devil, even though we have good intentions. [...] However, God has prepared a great salvation for us, capable of delivering us from the influence of the Evil One and the emptiness of a life without God." (Romans 7:14-15, 18-21, 23-24; Revelation 12:11) (Daily Food, book 4, week 2, Monday, p. 22).

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TUESDAY

1. Jesus said that rivers of living water would flow from within those who believed in Him. The Gospel of John explains that He was referring to the Spirit, which would be received by those who believed. In the resurrection, God glorified Him, and He became the life-giving Spirit. This Spirit is in us, not only to quench our thirst, but to flow from us, like rivers of living water, to supply others (John 7:38-39, 1 Corinthians 15:45).
2. Abraham called upon the name of the Lord. Calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus is like drawing water, like pumping living water into our inner being, and this water should flow from us to other people. However, the Spirit may still seem like something abstract; therefore, the word illuminates us, revealing that it is in the word that we find the Spirit (Genesis 21:25, 30, 33; John 6:63).
3. The Spirit is the source of the living water that we can find in the word. All who wish to bear fruit for the Lord need to remain near the source of these waters. Many live as if in the desert, exhausted and without living water, even though they possess material riches. We, however, endure like tamarisk trees, for we know where the springs are and how to drink from them. Let us, therefore, bring living water to people (John 7:37-39; 6:63; Jeremiah 17:7-8).
4. The snake managed to inject its genetic material into man, ruining him. But, according to God's plan, Christ is now being used by God as the Sower, who sows the seed of God in the heart of man. In Christ there is a new hope, the hope of sowing the divine seed, the seed of the kingdom" (Matthew 13:3, 18-23) (Daily Food, book 4, week 2, Tuesday, p. 25).

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WEDNESDAY

1. We need to live the spiritual reality of bearing children for God, as happened with Sarah, because He has spoken to the church, and His Word is the source of living water that makes us fruitful. The time of barrenness is over! We receive a rich word weekly, but to supply those who are in the desert, we need to be the first to receive it (Genesis 21:1-2; John 15:5; Jeremiah 17:8).
2. God gave Abraham a son under impossible circumstances: he was already advanced in age, and his wife was barren. It must not have been easy to believe in that promise. Then, God asked him specifically for his son. If God asked you for what you love most, would you give it to Him? Many times, we resist, thinking that we possess something, but everything we have we receive from God, and everything belongs to Him (Genesis 22:1-2; Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:14).
3. When the Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, he did not question or hesitate, but did as God commanded him. Abraham believed that everything belonged to the Lord and trusted that He could provide all things, even restore his son to him. That was Abraham's heart. Do you have this heart? Our faith needs to be tested (Genesis 22:1-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
4. "However firm our lives may be, it is still vanity! [...] Seek nothing on this Earth; the only thing you should seek is the word of the Lord, which endures forever. The word of the gospel carries a seed, the seed of the kingdom, and this word is not grass, it is not vanity, but it is the word of God, which endures forever!" (1 Peter 1:24-25) (Daily Food , book 4, week 2, Wednesday, pp. 27-28).

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THURSDAY

1. God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac to test him. This was a figure of God Himself giving His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for humanity. This reveals to us how much God loved us, to the point of giving His own Son for our sins, so that we might have peace with Him (Genesis 22:2; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9; 2 Peter 1:17).
2. Our faith needs to be tested, for it may still contain impurities that lead us to believe we have reached a level, in fact, that we have not attained. The test reveals the value of faith, just as gold is refined by fire. Whoever desires to serve the Lord will be tested. Are you willing? God desires to save us completely (1 Peter 1:7, 9).
3. King David displeased the Lord by conducting a census that God had not commanded. Everything must originate from God. If He did not command it, why do it? The Lord could greatly bless David's reign; therefore, there was no need to conduct a census to exalt his own name. This offended the Lord. David recognized his error, but his attitude ultimately brought death among the people (1 Chronicles 21:1, 3-5, 7-8, 13-14).
4. "It is not wrong for man to acquire knowledge; but to please God, it is necessary to seek His presence to hear His word, and to know through His word, His heart. To do this is to seek to hear the "whisper" of God in order to follow the direction of the command given by Him according to His good pleasure" (Ex 19:5; Jn 8:47) (Daily Food, book 4, week 2, Thursday, p. 30).

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FRIDAY

1. Mount Moriah later became Mount Zion. This was the place chosen by God as His dwelling and resting place, where the people were to ascend three times a year to worship Him. Today, however, there is no longer a specific physical location; the place chosen by God to receive worship is our spirit, where the very source of the water of life is found (Psalm 132:13-14; John 4:23-24; 7:38-39).
2. Why was Abraham so resolute as to bind Isaac on the wood to sacrifice him to God? Because he believed that God could resurrect him. This is the basic principle of God's plan: He desires that everything He gives us—and even the work He accomplishes through us—be offered back to Him as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:2-3, 9-10).
3. Everything the Lord grants us is for the fulfillment of His will, and God's will is the strongest reality that exists. Therefore, let us not reserve any area of our hearts for ourselves. Everything we have, everything we are, and everything God has accomplished in us and through us must serve to fulfill His will—Christ being the Head over all things (2 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:3, 9-10).
4. “Whether or not God will be pleased with our offering depends on the tree by which we live. Therefore, only one thing remains for us: to walk in the principle of the tree of life, that is, to seek the presence of God in order to follow the direction and command of God’s voice” (Genesis 2:17, 4:4-5a; Deuteronomy 30:19-20) (Daily Food, book 4, week 2, Friday, p. 31).

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SATURDAY

1. When Abraham said, "God will provide," he was prophesying about the true Lamb of God. While Isaac was asking about the sacrificial lamb, Abraham already believed in the one God would prepare for him. Therefore, he raised his hand to strike his son, but was stopped by the Lord. Christ was the Lamb destined to be delivered and sacrificed in Jerusalem (Genesis 22:7-8, 10-12; Matthew 16:21).
2. Jesus came as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He was obedient to God's plan, given to the Jewish leaders as the stone rejected by the builders, but he became the cornerstone. He was killed by the Romans during Passover and rose again on the third day. Christ is our true substitute, who gave His life in our place (John 1:29; Acts 2:23; 4:11; Mark 8:31).
3. After Abraham passed the final test of his submission, God reaffirmed all that He had promised Him: "I will surely bless you and multiply you [...], in your seed all the nations of the Earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:17-18). If we desire the Lord's blessing and the advancement of His work, let us proceed in full obedience to the Word, just as Abraham did.
4. Paul said in Philippians that we should not trust in the flesh. Not trusting in the flesh means not trusting in our natural ability, even if we have great skill. Despite having great skill and being counted prominently among the Jews, Paul renounced everything for Christ's sake and sought the righteousness of faith (Philippians 3:3-4, 7-9) (Daily Food, book 4, week 2, Saturday, p. 34).

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SUNDAY

1. The world lies under the sway of the wicked one. Satan has usurped the whole Earth, but we are retaking the cities of our enemies. Through Abraham's obedience, God swore by Himself to fulfill the promise of multiplication, whose heavenly offspring is the church. The water of life broke our barrenness, and the church became fruitful. Through obedience comes blessing (1 John 5:19; Genesis 22:15-18).
2. Thanks be to God for Abraham's obedience. The blessing promised to him was confirmed by God's own oath. Today, we are witnessing the fulfillment of this promise: infertility has been broken, for we are in the right place to worship God—in the spirit. Let us therefore remain in the practice of hearing the word with faith and obeying the Lord (Genesis 22:15-18).
3. We receive the Spirit through hearing by faith, and He works miracles of multiplication and fruitfulness. The church has become fruitful again, not through human merit, but through the sovereign action of God. We are like trees planted by the water. Let us not turn away from the word or the Spirit; the Lord accomplishes His work through our obedience (Romans 10:17, NAA; Acts 2:42-43, 47; Jeremiah 17:8).
4. “We are of God and we want to disconnect ourselves from the genetic link with the serpent; we want to live in the reality of the new man, the divine seed, which possesses the genetics of God pulsating within us. For this, we must be those who live in the Spirit and do not trust in the flesh. Those who live in the Spirit carry out the will of God and will bring the kingdom of God to Earth” (Eph 4:22-24; Gal 5:25) (Daily Food, book 4, week 2, Sunday, p. 38).

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