



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...” 2 Peter 1:21**

## Knowing God, Part Two

By Alex Hale

In Exodus 3:6, God says to Moses, “I am the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Here we see the level of fellowship God had with these three men. When we consider these men’s relationship with God, we see what it means to know God. Last week, Abraham taught us that *to know God means to follow God*.

We are not given as much information about the life of Isaac. However, a quick glance at his circumstances shows us that *knowing God does not eliminate all of life’s troubles*. God has not promised that everything will be great in this life.

In Genesis 22, Isaac’s faith was tested at an early age. Certainly this was a test for Abraham, but it was a challenge for Isaac as well! Isaac’s questioning about the lack of a lamb in verse 7 suggests that he was old enough to understand that the purpose of the journey was to offer a sacrifice to God. He was old enough to understand the principle of worship. He was also mature enough to understand the importance of obedience to his father, as he submitted to being placed upon the altar (v. 9).

Later in life, his wife was barren (Genesis 25:20-21). This was the same issue that his parents had faced. Today, the faith of many is weakened because of earthly struggles. We can get discouraged because of health issues or other desires that do not come to pass. However, these struggles should draw us closer to the

Lord, not further away from Him (Psalm 39:4-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7). Note the response of Isaac to this particular challenge – *he prayed*. What about us?

Isaac’s children caused him a great deal of heartache (Genesis 25:22-23). Jacob, the younger, manipulated his brother to obtain the birthright, which was rightfully Esau’s (Genesis 25:29-34). In addition, Isaac’s own wife helped Jacob to deceive him so that Jacob would receive the father’s blessing (Genesis 27). Isaac’s life ends with Jacob fleeing and Esau marrying foreign women. The challenge of disobedient children is something that many deal with (Proverbs 17:25). Numerous examples can be given from scripture of a good father who raises an evil son.

Isaac’s life was not always pretty. He faced immense challenges. Perhaps you identify with some of his struggles. Regardless of the specific challenges that we face, I believe that we can be assured of some things.

First, *we will not be tempted beyond that which we can bear* (1 Corinthians 10:13). Second, *all things work out for good in the life of the disciple* (Romans 8:28). This does not mean that everything is good, but that good can come if we are faithful. Third, *we should hope in the Lord even when we do not understand* (Psalm 130; Isaiah 55:8-9).

Lord willing, we will conclude these thoughts in next week’s article as we consider what Jacob can teach us.



### CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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#### When We Meet

##### Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

##### Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

#### Our Elders

R.D. Hopper

Norman Kemper

#### Our Preacher

Alex Hale