I appreciate the devotion that Ethan shared in Paul's prayers of the many things
that he requests them, the people that prayed about, that he prayed about.
As far as I know, his release from prison was never one of those things.
He recognized how God was using those circumstances
to further his kingdom and strengthen his people,
but he often prayed for people, about people, thanked
God for these people, and Mitchie said it this morning.
I don't know if y'all understand the place that y'all hold
in our hearts and the impact that this church has made on me.
I've jokingly said this church is the one that created this monster.
I had never passed the church until I come here.
I've just been loved on and encouraged and prayed for, and
I tell you, I love you dearly and so, so thankful for you.
And as my sincere desire, I just want to be the example that God wants me to be.
I want to be the preacher that God wants me
to be and the pastor that God wants me to be.
Hebrews chapter 11, verse 8.
The Bible says, By faith, it says,
For he, for he, for an inheritance, obeyed.
And he went out, not knowing whether he went.
By faith, he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a stained country, dwelling
in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.
For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was
delivered
of a child when she was past age, because she has judged him faithful who had
promised.
Therefore sprang they even of one and of him as good as dead, so many as the stars
of the sky of multitude and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable.
These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar
off and were
persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and
pilgrims on the earth.
For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.
And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from which they
had came out, they might have had an opportunity to have returned.
But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly country, whereof God
is not ashamed to be called their God, for he hath prepared for them a city.
There's a lot in those verses, but I really want to focus on verse 17.
It says,
Tonight I want to share with you on the subject of the growth of God's man.
The growth of God's man.
Let's pray.
Father, I thank you for this church.
I thank you for these people that are gathered for each home in their faithfulness.
Lord, I pray, Lord, that we might see you, that
we might rely on you, that we might trust in you.
Lord, you are the only one that can credit righteousness to a wicked man.
But Lord, once you have done so, your aim and your
desire and your goal and your work is to grow that man.

To use that man, to mature that man.
Lord, for our good and for your glory.
Lord, there is a method and a means to which you do these things.
Many of which are greater than our own comprehension.
So Lord, we ask tonight that you would take your word, that we
might examine your scripture and your work in the life of Abraham.
That these truths might be applied in our lives, Lord, and embraced.
Lord, for our good and for your glory.
Lord, I ask you to take this time tonight.
Lord, you use it.
In Jesus' sweet name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
I do want to share with you on the thought of the growth of God's man.
We can look at the life of Abraham beginning
back in Hebrews, I mean in Genesis chapter 12.
And go all the way through Genesis chapter 22 is where we find this passage of
Isaac.
There's a lot of years that pass by and we see
a man who wasn't perfect, as none of us are.
We see stumbles, we see falls, but we do see
a progression in the life of this man of God.
But one of the things that stands out to me, and I look
at his life and I think back of a time when I was a child.
When we're all little, we get infatuated with certain
things or certain things become important to us.
I remember having a little string in time in my life
where I was caught up being magicians or illusionists.
You know, those people who could pull a rabbit out
of a hat or could make men disappear or, you know,
cut somebody in a box in half with a saw and
we all know that none of that stuff is real.
It's all sleight of hand, magic potion or any of those types of things.
But I've been being a kid and wanted to learn the
card tricks and how to do all of those things.
But I ask them, how in the world did they do that?
You know, I mean, it's intriguing to see how they accomplish some of those things.
I don't ever think about those things anyway, but
I really do oftentimes apply that to real life.
I do it oftentimes when I read my Bible and I look at the people that God used.
I ask myself quite often, how in the world did Jeremiah
keep preaching his entire life without one notable convert?
I mean, they hung him in the mire.
He didn't get to go watch.
He was despised.
It was difficult.
How did Paul return back to Lystra where they had stoned him and left him for death?
How did Peter, only 40 days after the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ,
go back and preach at Pentecost like a man whose hair was on fire?
How did these people accomplish these things?

They accomplished such great things, and I failed at such small things.
I mean, how did David face Goliath?
How did Daniel face the lion's den?
How did the three Hebrew boys face the fire?
Because I look at these people, and I look at their
life, and then I begin to translate it to real life.
Folks, Christianity isn't a science.
It's not just a religion.
It's not something that we study, but it is a life to where I am called to mind God, to obey God, to be faithful to God, to serve God, to love God, to worship God.
But in the midst of all of these things, there's circumstances, and there's difficulties, and there's temptations, and there's hardships, and there's trials.
And I look at somebody's life who seemed to fall flat on their face, and I look at others who seem
to have moved past it and moved beyond it, and I ask myself the question, how did they do that?
Thank God, praise God, we can go to God's Word,
and we find the answer of how they did that.
If there was ever a case of how in the world did somebody do what they did, it's feeding the
entire life of Abraham, but in particular, when we get to the record of Abraham and Isaac.
I ask myself the first question, Lord, why?
Lord, why such an incredible, difficult, and indeed puzzling command?
If we go back to Genesis chapter 22, we can read this, where God calls Abraham.
Now, remember who Isaac is.
Isaac is the promisee.
It's not Ishmael born to Hagar.
It's through Isaac that the Lord is going to work.
He's going to bring the Messiah into this world.
And the Lord tells Abraham, he says, you are to
take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love.
And you are to offer him to me on Mount Moriah.
Lord, why?
I want to remove one answer from the table.
It was not so God could find out something that God did not know.
God never learns anything new about any of us or anything or any situation at all.
It wasn't so God could find something out.
One answer, and I don't have a Bible for this, but it's a
thought because we really don't have a clear answer on this,
is perhaps Isaac, perhaps Abraham had taken Isaac and allowed Isaac to fulfill a place,
a throne, a place, a place in Abraham's heart that was only God's meant to fill.
Abraham was the promised seed, but Isaac was the
promised seed, but Isaac wasn't the promised.
Do you understand what I'm about to say?
That the gift that God gave Abraham was a gift
to bring him closer to the God that gave it.
It wasn't the gift itself.
I'm looking at a more seasoned crowd, an older crowd, but now we get grandbabies.

I've seen this begin to happen in the lives of some young parents.
It's these children that God has given us, which
are a blessing, which we laid down our life for.
I've seen people post things and say things, this is my life.
That's wrong.
They're not meant to be our life.
What they are meant to be is a gift from God to
draw us closer to God, and we take them to God.
I honestly believe, I love that little Dean, that little cute little fella.
Listen, there's a place in your life, Andrew,
that is God's to fill, and Dean can't fill it.
Hannah can't fill it.
So I think God may have took Abraham to a
place, I'm going to bring you to a place, April.
A difficult place.
Where you can prove your love to me, where I can test your faithfulness.
Again, if you disagree, that's fine.
But I want to tell you what I really think it's for.
I think it's not as much for Abraham as it was for all of
us to learn the lesson of the absolute necessity of faith.
And the power that comes when the Lord is the object of it.
Hebrews 11.6 says,
For without faith, it is impossible to please God.
It is not just a one-time action.
It is not just a one-time act.
Sister Edna Earl, that to this day, to this day, to
this day, you cannot please God apart from faith.
And He'll put you in places, and He'll test you, and He'll try you.
Because it is at the absolute necessity in our life.
That we realize that has to be there.
And when it is there, we see the power of God displayed in our lives.
This record of Abraham in Hebrews chapter 11, we find the how.
How did he do it?
How did he do it?
That answer is faith.
But this faith is displayed in multiple, multiple ways.
And we see that in the growth of God's man.
So here we are.
Here's Abram.
And he's asked.
And again, this specific situation doesn't have to be our
situation for the truth of this situation to apply in our lives.
But Randy, how could he do such a thing?
Well, we have the answer.
Hebrews chapter 11.
I want you to look at verse 11 and 12.
The Lord tells us exactly how he did it.
That Abraham clung.
And this is where I don't care if you write things down or don't write things down.
But I wrote these things down.

Because here's the reality.
I may not face that, Robert.
But I'm going to face something that is going to test my
faith, test my resolve, test my obedience, test my loyalty.
And my future of my testimony, the future of my family, perhaps
the very future of this church hinges upon how I respond.
Amen.
How did Abraham do it?
Number one, he clung to God's promises and provision in the past.
That's very, very important.
So now this time comes.
Abraham backs up in his mind.
And he clings to the promises of God that God had given him in the past.
And he clings to the provision of God that God had given him in the past.
Hebrews chapter 11, verse 11 and 12.
It says,
Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive
seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age,
because she has judged him faithful who had promised.
Therefore spring there even of one in him as good as
dead, so many as the stars of the sky and multitude,
and as of the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.
What's that talking about?
Abraham's going back in his mind.
We're going back to chapter number 12 where God calls him out and he's 75 years old.
He brings him out.
He says,
Look to the stars, so shall thy seed be.
We can go back to that 13 years of silence that we looked at this morning.
Abraham was 86 years old when Hagar buried Ishmael to Abram.
And Abram was 99 when the Lord God appeared and said, I am the almighty God.
Walk before me and be thou perfect.
We can go back to Genesis chapter number 18 where he gets a divine visit.
Him and Sarah does and said about this time next year Sarah's going to have a baby.
And Sarah begins to laugh.
No, what God is saying in Hebrews chapter 11 is that Abraham was 100 years old
And Sarah's womb was dead about the time that
baby boy named Laughter come into this world.
And Abraham was under no misgivings, no misunderstandings where this boy came from.
So Abraham was able to mind God and trust God and almost the impossible present
situation that he found himself
in because he could go back in his mind and he sees the fulfilled promises and the
provisions of God in his life.
Folks, that is huge because every single one of us, not only are we
going to come into things, but we can go back things in our life and go,
Lord, you truly did show up in this situation.
You truly did show out in this situation.
You truly did see me through where I was to get me to where I am.
I heard somebody say many years ago, it
doesn't take a long memory to praise the Lord.

All it takes is an accurate one.
To thank God and to praise God, all we've got to be able to do is think clearly.
But the same thing is true when it comes to faith.
So how could Abraham do this?
Because he realized, it says in Hebrews chapter 11, she,
referring to Sarah, had judged him faithful who had promised.
Sister Peggy, hasn't God shown up in your blankety-blank years?
I don't know how many you got.
Hadn't he?
Hadn't he?
That's big to me.
It's big.
I tell guys at work all the time, you know, when we're in the drywall business
and we deliver stuff here and we deliver stuff there and all these things.
And sometimes we act like we come across
something and like the sky is going to fall.
What are we going to do?
I said, look, man, I've been doing this now for 26 years.
I said, there ain't no such thing as a new problem.
We've dealt with this before.
At some place, at some time, now you may have
been here two years and you ain't dealt with it.
But I promise you, we've had flat tires before.
We've had trucks stuck before.
We've had people drop sheetrock from 80 feet in the air onto the concrete floor.
We've seen all this stuff before.
There ain't no such thing as a new problem.
We can get past this because we know how to get past this.
So here Abraham is with God.
He says, Lord, you're asking me in this situation to do something
that doesn't, I can't conceive of what you've called me to do.
But I am going to do it based upon this factor.
I can look back in my life and you have been faithful, faithful, faithful, faithful.
Amen.
He cloned to God's promises and provision from the past.
Number two, look at verse 8 and 10.
He trusted in God's provision for the future and that he would provide a city.
We're talking about, listen, we're talking about a lifetime now.
Abraham was 75 when he came out of Haran.
And so now we're way on to this thing.
But look what it says in verse number 8, Hebrews chapter 11.
He says, by faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into
a place which he should have to receive for an inheritance,
obeyed and he went out not knowing whether he went.
By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country,
dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob,
the same heirs with him of the same promise.
This continues in verse 13.
He says, these all died in faith, not having received the promises,
but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them.

Let's stop there for just a minute.
I didn't know I was going to comment here, but
the Lord just told me to put it on the break.
He saw these things afar off.
Saw what?
The promise of God.
After he saw them, he's persuaded of them.
That means he's convinced.
He's convinced.
So he's seen, he's convinced, and now what?
For the author, he embraces it.
He embraces it.
And embrace them and confess that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.
And truly, if they've been mindful of the country from which they came out,
they might have had an opportunity to have returned.
But now they desire a better country, that is a heavenly,
wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,
for he hath propelled them a city.
We're getting away from the story of Abraham and Isaac.
But folks, there's a lot of things leading up to the story of Abraham and Isaac
that allows him to be faithful when God calls him to offer Isaac.
One of those things is that he had seen the faithfulness of God in the past.
Number two, he trusted God for provision in the future.
He could look back in his life when God called him out,
and he went not knowing where he was going whatsoever,
but he simply trusted the God that called him to go.
Why did he go?
Because he was persuaded there was a better place.
See, I know I've been beating this drum, beating
this drum, beating this drum for three weeks.
It always goes back to who God is.
It always goes back to the character of God.
He trusted that this God that called him to go somewhere
had something better for him than what he had here.
So based upon who God is alone, not even the circumstances,
was enough reason for him to go where God called him to go.
Based on the character of God.
Based upon the goodness of God.
Abraham was seeking those things which are above before the apostle Paul ever said
it.
We looked at Colossians.
Seek those things which are above what Christ said.
It's on the right hand of God.
Set you not on things below, but on things above.
Y'all have heard this quote before.
I believe it was C.S. Lewis that said this.
He says, The sense that Christians have largely ceased to think on the other world,
that they've become so ineffective in this one.
Aim at heaven, you will get the earth thrown in.

Aim at earth, and you will get neither.
So here's the thing about Abraham.
And boy, this is a hard one for me.
It is a hard one for me.
Hard, hard, hard for me.
I mean, all I can do is say what the word says.
Abraham's 75 years old.
He's there with his family.
And God says,
Get thee out.
It's a command, not a request.
Get thee out.
I'm going to do something with you.
I'm going to do something amazing through you and with you.
And Abraham,
now he dragged his feet a little bit.
But eventually he goes.
And why he went?
Ronnie,
because he trusted this God that caught him.
Had something better for him.
Even if he did not know at that time
exactly what it would be or where it would be.
Folks, that's faith.
And can I tell you something?
That's not asking too much.
Because it goes back to the character of God.
But here's what Abraham could have done.
He goes,
Lord, I like it right here.
I need security right here.
I've got these plans right here.
I've got these things here.
He could have made his home here.
I love that it says that they dwelt in tabernacles.
Folks, all those things were just tents.
They were just tents.
They were just tents.
He was a nomad basically moving around.
Now listen, I love my home.
I've got two of them.
I've got one over there and I've got one back in Cleveland.
My home is my home.
But the reality is,
what if we did simply look at this life
as Scripture calls us to look at it?
That it is but a vapor.
I mean, you take the lid off, the smoke goes up and it is gone.
It is gone just that fast.
But what I do while I'm in that vapor of life

will last for all of eternity.
If I live my life for myself, if I live it toward God,
or I consume things here on earth,
or I store up treasure in heaven,
or I worry about me and mine,
or if I go and I preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people,
if somebody might believe, I might be stronger,
I might be safe.
That I don't worry so much about what I have right here,
but I trust God who calls me to take me to the place
that He wants me to be
and I can do so
because I can look back from day one.
He's always been faithful to every promise that He's ever made.
If you could just go straight to Abraham and Isaac,
this thing don't make no sense.
But you can't even get a look back through his life, his entire life.
And he sees God acting.
He sees God move him.
And he's trusting this great God.
He trusted
that God would provide a place.
But look here at verse 17.
We get to Isaac.
He trusted
in God's power to raise the dead.
He said, By faith Abraham,
when he was tried,
offered up Isaac, and he that had received the promise,
offered up his only begotten son,
of whom it was said, and Isaac shall I see thee called.
Accounting.
That God was able to raise him up,
even from the dead, from which also
he received him in a figure.
We go to Genesis chapter 22.
Most of y'all know that record.
Abraham gets up early in the morning.
He and Isaac,
they leave the servants behind,
and they go, they got wood in hand, they got knife in hand, they got fire in hand.
He goes up there,
and he binds his son Isaac,
and he places him upon that altar,
and he raises a knife,
fully prepared
to follow through in obedience to God.
The Lord speaks.
He stops.
There's a ram caught

with a sticket in his horns.
I mean,
he's caught in a sticket by his horns.
And how could he do that?
How did he get Isaac?
Sarah's womb was dead.
Abraham was 100 years old.
People of that age don't have babies.
They just don't.
It's in other words, God gave me this child
from a dead womb.
God gave us this child at this age.
Abraham was fully convinced that if God called him to offer Isaac
that because he had promised he was going to work through Isaac,
that this same God had the power to raise him up from the dead.
He had the power to bring him back.
He told that bunch at the bottom of the hill,
we're going to go up there and worship the Lord,
and we're going to come back.
He took wood with him.
That wasn't for a campfire.
That was to turn Isaac into ash.
But he believed neither death itself could thwart
the promises of God.
And folks, this isn't preacher speak.
I mean,
if I don't get it, and I don't quit saying we,
if I don't get anything from the records of God and man,
God dealing with Noah,
God judging sin, God being grieved by sin,
God,
Noah finding grace in the eyes of God,
if I don't find anything to the life of Abraham,
I must realize,
friend,
we're not just talking about church,
we're not talking about preaching.
We're talking about life,
we're talking about peace,
we are talking about power,
that we are talking about faith
in the living God, that I see who this God is,
and it's only by seeing who this God is that
I can do what this God has called me to do.
Abraham said, Lord,
I can look back and I see
great is thy faithfulness,
your provision,
your promises.
I believe that you have a better place prepared.

I know the older we get, the more we think about that
and sing those songs.
Y'all don't get mad at me,
but I'm not ready to go to heaven yet.
I'm not.
I make my wife,
I probably don't tell you all this, I make my wife and my sister mad,
my sister,
my daughter mad.
I've already written out most of my funeral.
God don't want anybody to get up there and lie about me,
about how good a guy I was, so I've written it both out.
Somebody's just going to basically preach and say what I've already written down
because I'm not that great of a guy.
I'm somebody who God
saved by his miraculous grace.
Heaven,
we get torn up about this,
so how old am I going to be?
Am I going to remember?
So whatever you can think of that is the absolute best thing that you can think of
is absolutely garbage and pales in comparison
to what the Lord Jesus Christ has in store for his children.
There will not be
anything like it whatsoever
to bask in the glory
of the King of glory
for all of eternity.
No sin,
no sickness,
no death,
no shame,
no curse,
no poverty,
no disease,
no nothing, no hurting,
pure love, pure grace,
pure mercy,
basking in God for all of eternity.
There's nothing better.
But can I tell you what?
It can be good here, Sister Sheila,
and I want that better place where I'm at.
I know that's coming.
Y'all got quiet on now.
You might not believe me.
I'm telling you,
it can be good right here if I go where he says go and I trust when he says trust
and I sacrifice when he tells me to sacrifice
and I trust in the character of God even when I don't understand the works of God

that I can dwell in this place right here
and that eternal life
is not eternal existence,
but it is knowing the Father
and his Son, Jesus Christ.
it can be good right now.
Right now?
It's true.
Abraham believed in the Lord's power
to raise the dead.
But look, I want to close with this.
He trusted in God's provision
that he would provide a lamb.
Genesis chapter 22.
I want to read this to you.
Genesis chapter 22 verse 6.
And Abraham said to his young man, Abad you here
with the ass and I and the lad will go yonder
and worship and come again to you.
And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it upon Isaac his son
and he took the fire and his hand and a knife and they both went
both of them together.
And Isaac speaking to Abraham,
his father said, My father.
And he said, Here am I, my son.
And he said, Behold the fire and the wood but where is the lamb for a burnt
offering?
And Abraham said, My son,
God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.
So they went both of them together and they
came to the place which God had told him of
and Abraham built an altar there
and laid the wood in order and bound to St.
Isaac and laid him upon the altar upon the wood.
And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
And the angel of the Lord called him out of heaven and said,
Abraham, Abraham.
And he said, Here am I.
And he said, Lay not thy hand upon the lad
neither do thou anything to him.
For now I know is that thou fearest God seeing that thou hast not withheld thy son
not only son from me.
And Abraham lit up his eyes and looked and behold a ram
caught in a thicket by his horns.
And Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering
in the stead of his son.
You want to talk about a hallelujah,
praise God,
heaven came down moment?
I mean,

you're talking about a moment.
It's when this man
who had no kids,
just a stranger,
God had caught him out by his grace at 75 years old.
Says, I ain't done with you.
This man goes and his faith walks with the Lord.
He goes, Lord have mercy we got a famine here.
I got to lie about Sarah because she's beautiful.
Hey,
that's my sister.
And God oversees him through all those stumbles.
Pharaoh doesn't kill Abraham nor does he keep Sarah
and God keeps him.
Then we get there and Abraham decides to take matters
into his own hands.
He listens to Sarah.
Hey,
we can't have babies anymore.
Just go and sleep with Hagar
and that'll be the seed.
So Abraham,
he quits trusting God,
quits having faith in God and you know what,
we're going to have to fix this thing ourselves.
So that's exactly what he does.
And all crap just breaks loose.
That wasn't God's plans at all.
So 13 years of nothing.
And God shows up.
Abraham at 99.
I am the almighty God.
I'm Mel Shaddai.
I'm the one that always has been.
I'm the one that always will be.
I'm the one that brought the flood.
I'm the one that painted the rainbow.
I'm the one that brought down Jericho's walls.
The man of the quail.
All of those things.
I've done all of these.
Abraham,
I'm the almighty God.
Walk before me and be perfect.
Abraham falls on his face.
This is the story.
Abraham falls on his face and God talks with him.
A few chapters later,
there's a divine visit.
The Lord and his angels show up.

Say about this time next year in the spring,
you're going to have a baby.
Who ever thought of such a thing?
Wait and see.
And Lord have mercy.
This old woman
just birthed a little boy named Isaac.
And listen, this is life.
Y'all are listening.
God's seed
and the world's seed,
they don't get along well.
Ishmael and Isaac
growing up in the same house.
Sarah looks at Ishmael and says,
Hagar,
you've got to get rid of them.
You've got to get rid of them.
I love when God heard
the cries of Hagar's child.
She threw him a rock to throw away because she didn't want to watch him die.
This is who God is.
God heard her cry.
Now Isaac begins to grow.
The promise has been fulfilled.
And Randy, I believe all of these gifts
that God had given Abram,
they now become to be his life.
They were what he lived for.
They were what he longed for.
And God says, No, Haley.
I know you love them girls and that boy.
But I demand to be first.
I demand
to be first.
you're going to take my gift.
And you're going to give him back to me.
And here's where Abraham nailed it.
Okay, God.
You've been faithful.
You've been faithful
and you've done all you ever said you would do.
You have performed the miraculous.
You gave us a baby from the dead.
And I believe now,
if I follow through with this command,
you're going to raise him up from the dead.
That's going to occur.
That's going to occur.
But we mentioned here,

in this text, one of the greatest statements that's ever made,
it comes from the mouth of the Lord Jesus.
As Abraham's up on this mountain,
and Jesus is there, not there in that sense,
but he's there in a different sense.
And he says in the book of John,
speaking to the Jews, he says,
your father Abraham
rejoiced to see my day
and he saw it
and was glad.
Can I tell you what was happening?
One moment,
Abraham and Isaac are walking up one side of the mountain.
That ram is coming up the other.
But that's not what the Lord Jesus
is talking about.
Looking back to the eye of faith,
Abraham's looking forward.
Though Abraham could see that God indeed
would provide a lamb
and that lamb is none other
than the Lord Jesus Christ.
And today,
I can walk in faith.
Today,
I can be,
well, how in the world did Brother Brian do it?
Here's how I did it.
God provided a lamb.
That lamb is victorious.
That lamb is standing.
That lamb is alive.
And it's through faith
and this great God that we can do what this God has called us to do.
Abraham's name
is mentioned 230 times in the King James Bible.
His name is found
in 27 of the 66 books.
More than Peter,
more than Paul,
more than any of the disciples.
And it had nothing to do with any great messages he preached,
his great wealth,
his singing voice.
He didn't build the Lord a sanctuary.
Why is he there?
He was a man
that saw the worthiness of God
and realized

that faith
is the only
worthy response to God.
He saw the greatness of God
and that faith
is the only
worthy response to God.
friend, that is unchanged for me.
That is unchanged for you.
Praise God because this God
is unchanged.
Dear Holy Father,
thank you.
Thank you for who you are.
Thank you for what you've done.
Lord, I thank you that you've never put me to a test like you did Abraham.
Lord, I thank you that I haven't been in that place.
Lord, I honestly have fallen and failed
and much less.
God,
help us to embrace,
Lord, this isn't a Bible story.
These are the records of a real God working in the lives
of real men.
Lord, that we can know this same power,
this same El Shaddai,
this same Jehovah-Jireh
that Abraham proclaims that the Lord
will provide
and has provided.
Lord, increase our faith
by increasing
our view
of who you are.
Lord, we love you and thank you.
In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.
Let's stand, please.