



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 3 January 17, 2023

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

### MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

### OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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YouTube & Facebook

### HOME OF

*Florida School of Preaching*  
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD  
*Casey & Emily Paulin*

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Joey Treat ..... Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## A Faith Strong Enough To Pull Back The Knife

**By Josh Cantrell**

Throughout history, there have been many great leaders. With every leader, there is also an enemy, a threat to our society. Same with movies, there is a good guy and a bad one as well. As we examine our lives, we also have an enemy. The Bible calls him a liar (John 8:44), the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). Peter describes him as “a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). The thing Satan is after is your faith. He wants us to doubt God and His word. Paul says, “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:10). Satan understands if he can get our faith, he can get us.

As we read the Bible, we are introduced to and reminded of many great heroes of faith. They had struggles, but their faith kept them anchored to God almighty. The Hebrews writes gives us an entire chapter reminding us of these great people of God (Hebrews 11). Every challenge allowed their faith to be tested, ultimately drawing them closer to God's heart. One of those heroes is the focus of our topics today, Abraham. Over twenty years had passed and Abraham and his wife still did not have a child. God told Abraham that “through his seed, all the nations of the earth would be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3). As recorded in Genesis 21, Sarah gives birth to that son, Issac. In the very next chapter (Genesis 22), God tells Abraham to sacrifice that son. What took place on that day for Abraham had been recorded to strengthen our faith, and remind us that our God is able (Daniel 3:16-18). Let's examine how Abraham had strong enough faith to pull back the knife.

**The Setting** When we read Genesis 22, we come to realize we are reading something different from many other accounts where people had been tested by God. God told Abraham to take his son and sacrifice him up to Heaven. What is more amazing is the fact that Abraham did what God told him to do. Abraham took his son and laid him on the altar with the knife in his hand. All references to this event in the New Testament state that Abraham offered Issac (Hebrews 11:17-19; James 2:21). How did Abraham do this? He did it by faith. We really could end this article right there. He did it by faith, that's it. Article done. What about Abraham's faith in God led him to the ultimate sacrifice of offering his son?

Part of the answer is found in what we learn about Abraham and God's relationship. Abraham's faith and friendship with God were about love, submission, and sacrifice. Neither Abraham's nor our relationship with God is a one-way street. We cannot simply receive from God, we must also offer up to God. Up to this point Abraham had offered very little to God. This request allows Abraham to demonstrate his faith and solidify his friendship with God.

**Absolute Surrender** The Bible records, “Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, Abraham! And he said, Here I am. He said, Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offers him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you” (Genesis 22:1-2). Earlier in Abraham’s life, God told him to leave some family members behind (Genesis 11:27-12:3). There was the account with his nephew Lot (Genesis 13:5-13). There was the account with Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-2). Now Abraham has come to the supreme test, he is asked to give up his precious son. Abraham believed in God and trusted his word, which was enough for him. When we go through our faith battles in life, we must remember to trust God’s word. We used to say “your word is your mind.” That is certainly the case with our God. God was putting Abraham through the supreme test to surrender not just his son, but himself to God. God did not test Abraham so that Abraham might prove himself to God. God knew Abraham’s heart, God knows all things. I believe that Abraham needs to know his own heart, and if anyone needed an example of complete surrender, this is it. Abraham’s faith teaches us that we must move to maturity. Peter would say, “Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation” (1 Peter 2:1-2). We must desire and pray for our faith to grow. Faith doesn’t just grow when things are going well in our lives. The storms of life and trials will make our faith grow as well.

**Absolute Sacrifice** The second thing we see from Abraham’s faith is thinking through the sacrifice. God’s instructions had pierced Abraham’s heart, and cut him to the core. God told Abraham his seed was going to be great. Now God is telling him to offer his son. As Paul offers this prayer to God, as recorded in Ephesians 3, he says “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (Ephesians 3:20). Abraham’s faith had developed because of God’s faithfulness throughout his life. In answering how Abraham’s faith could be strong enough to pull back the knife, one answer would be the fact that having Isaac to sacrifice is proof positive that he can trust the God who asked him.

The Bible says, “God did tempt Abraham.” This is not a solicitation to sin, God cannot be tempted with evil, and neither he tempt any man” (James 1:13-15). In order for a test to be successful, someone must answer the call to be tested. Abraham’s faith is demonstrated in the beginning. His answer is “Here am I” (Genesis 22:1).

Sacrifice requires an object and recipient (Genesis 22:2). God commanded him to "take now thy son, and offer him for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:2). The recipient of this worship is God. God is clear in what he asks of Abraham, his son. Sacrifice requires willingness (Genesis 22:3-5). All acceptable sacrifices to God have one thing in common, they must come from a willing heart. Abraham is willing to offer Isaac to God and this can be seen in the following four things: his purpose, his plan, his persistence and his perfect outlook. He purposed to sacrifice Isaac. He planned for an offering. Abraham took what was necessary for worship. He persisted to make the offering. His outlook was in the fact that he could trust God's word. Each of these allowed Abraham to offer his son. Abraham's faith is a great example to us today.

*He did not waiver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

**Romans 4:20-21**



## **Rise of the Messianic Kingdom**

A few more days (and a lot of learning to fill our cup) remain of FSOP's 48th annual lectureship! Visit in person or online and join us in this study! Thanks to all who are helping to make this possible. Our workers before the lectureship (who pulled weeds, cut brush, and cleaned the building) and during the lectureship (especially that kitchen staff) are contributing greatly to the lectureship's success!

**PRAYER LIST**

**Current:** Brenda Lynn is recovering at home following surgery. Toney Wilson's cousin Marcus Cunningham passed away this week. Bobby Simpson is in Brandon Hosp with chest pain. Kathy Nester fell and broke her hip last Sunday.

**Continual:** Sophia Smith & family (brain trauma recovery); Bob Pratt (health); Brenda Mask (blood pressure issues); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Wayne Shearer (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Charles Paulin (health); Jim Turner (health). Margaret Coone (health).

**Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, and Kenny & Reba French.

**Extended family and Friends:** prayer requests are emailed each week

*Thank you!*

Brenda Lynn wishes to thank everyone for the prayers !

**Response:** Rick Kenyon requested prayers last Sunday morning that he will see the best in people and he won't allow bitterness to affect his work as a deacon.



The SFA church directory is now available on the **Instant Church Directory App**. Privacy and safety is an absolute factor! To access the app, your email address **must** be registered with the office to verify identity. If the office does not have your email, access to the directory will be **denied**. If you need assistance or more information about it, please see Rick Kenyon.

**5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION**

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **January 29, 2023.**

If you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

**Special Thanks** to our young people who lead in the afternoon worship services for the Eagle Lake church of Christ last Sunday. We appreciate Vince working with them and their willingness to participate. It is never too soon for the spiritually mature to commit God's truth to faithful men (young or not so young) that the church may continue strong into future generations (2 Tim. 2:2). May God continue to bless our young people, their parents, their mentors, and those who work with them!

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

**January**

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

**Wednesday, January 18 2023**

Announcements .....Stacey Paulin  
Song Leader/prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
Devo .....Lectureship speaker  
Closing Prayer .....Jeff Stewart

**10:30 A.M**

The Fugitive (Jonah 1:1-2)  
Joshua Cantrell

**6:00 P.M.**

Fellowship Singing

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**10:30 A.M.**

Song/prayer before class .....Andre Medley  
Announcements .....Brian Kenyon  
A.M. Song Leader .....Vince Daugherty  
Scripture reading/Prayer .....Wayne Shearer  
Lord's Table .....Steven Tydings  
Closing Prayer ..... David Anderson  
Open/Close bldg (both).....David Deal  
Greeters ..... Nona/Janice-  
Attendance cards (both) .....Caelen/Camron  
Sound Booth (both).....Brian Williams  
**6:00 P.M.**

P.M. Song Leader .....Vince Daugherty  
Scripture reading/Prayer .....Ralph Rogers  
Lord's Table ..... Steve Tydings  
Closing Prayer.....Bobby Sheumaker

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

Announcements .....Frank Hamby  
Song Leader/prayer .....Andre Medley  
Devo .....Brian Kenyon  
Closing Prayer .....Paul Sweeney

**Upcoming Events 2023**

**February**

- 11 - Youth Group Valentines Party
- 12 - Elders, Deacons, Preachers Meeting
- 17-19 - Ladies Retreat (Weeki-Wachee)
- 24-26 -Yes Weekend (Forrest Park)
- 26 -Fellowship in Service

**March**

- 12-15 - SFA Gospel Meeting (Victor Eskew)

**~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~**

Jan 01.....	\$6,560.00
Jan 08.....	\$12,824.70
Jan 15.....	\$5,481.00
Contribution Average.....	\$8,288.57
<b>Weekly budget .....</b>	<b>\$7410.00</b>

## Training for Boys & Girls

Paul desired that "men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without doubting" (I Timothy 2:8). What then should our young men be learning from a young age? 1) men are leaders; 2) men are to pray; 3) men are to know and be dependent on God; 4) men are to be holy; and 5) men are to be full of faith. Young men, practice makes perfect. Especially you, young men, must learn to be humble and dependent on the God who gives us our daily bread.

Paul also gave instructions for women-- "adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works." (I Timothy 2:9,10). 1) women are to be modest in dress [not expensive]; 2) not drawing attention to themselves; 3) be known for your inner beauty; 4) be known for good works. Especially you, young women, learn that God is to be the center of our attention, not you.- VD

**Thanks be unto  
God for his  
unspeakable gift!**  
**Second Corinthians 9:15**

Women of the Word

Rene Bingle

## The Power of One

There is a story I read about a woman walking on the beach and she picks up one starfish at a time and throws it back into the water in order to save it from dying. A man sees her and tells her that she'll never save them all, but she tells him, "No, I can't, but I saved that one." That story reminds me that I need to be searching for souls that are dying and doing what I can to save them, and although I can't save them all, maybe I can save one. Ladies, what if we each can save one! What an impact we could make! So today, let's look for one opportunity to share Jesus with someone – send a text, share a tract, invite someone to church services, etc. Then tomorrow look for one more opportunity. Just think if we did that each day of 2023. We would each share Jesus with 365 people! It's doable! Who's with me?

Mark 16:15, "And he said to them 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'"

1 Cor: 9:16, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel."

Matthew 18:12-14, "How think ye if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of you Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*Direct me in the path of your  
commands, for  
there I find delight.*

*Psalm 119:35*



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.