

March 27, 2020

Good morning, Everyone.

Pastor Tipton is still in the hospital, attempting to regain strength after his second round of chemo. He was doing a little better yesterday, but he has a ways to go. He so appreciates everyone's concern and prayers.



It's truly wonderful to be able to take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there! *If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out, take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*

Responses to the Lord

I've been "hungry" to read through Genesis again. The last few mornings I've been struck by a small detail about Abraham's responses to God's directions.

*And Abraham **got up early in the morning** to the place where he stood before the LORD. And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah. . . (19:27-28a).*

*And Abraham **rose up early in the morning**, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away (21:14).*

*And Abraham **rose up early in the morning**, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him (22:3).*

When you read the stories, it's apparent that each of these Divine events (God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God's direction to send Hagar and Ishmael away, God's command to offer up Isaac) struck right to the very heart of this man. But His response in each case, whether to watch for what he had asked of God, or to do what God had asked of him was the same. He *rose up early in the morning*.

That expression would make a good one to pray to the Lord (in a figurative sense) about anything He calls upon us to do.

Oh, Lord, by Your grace, and for Your glory, help me to "rise up early in the morning" in this that you've called on me to do.

Matthew Henry has a characteristically pithy comment.

*Those that do the will of God heartily will do it speedily;
while we delay time is lost and the heart hardened.*

No debate. No delay. *Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do? By your grace,
I'll "rise up early in the morning" . . .*

That would be walking *closely* with the Lord.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick