



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 7, 2021

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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The Ocean Waves of Life!

Have you ever stood in the ocean when the waves are rolling in? If you are not prepared and standing with your feet firmly set, the waves can easily knock you down. The Bible uses this idea of “*standing firm*” and “*holding fast*” when describing how we need to be living our lives. The term “*hold fast*” is defined as “*to continue to believe in or adhere to an idea or principle.*” The closely related word “*steadfast*” is defined as “*resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.*”

We are to hold fast to God and be obedient to Him. “*It is the Lord your God you must follow, and Him you must revere. Keep His commands and obey Him; serve Him and hold fast to Him*” (**Deuteronomy 13:4**).

We are to hold fast to our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior. “*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession*” (**Hebrews 4:14**).

We are to hold fast to the teachings that we have received through the Bible. “*So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter*” (**2 Thess. 2:15**).

We are to continue steadfast in the work of the Lord. “*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord*” (**1 Cor. 15:58**).

Are we standing firm or letting life’s worries wash us away like ocean waves?

Brad Tolbert
Monticello church of Christ
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Abraham's Early Mornings

I am not really a morning person. I loathe early alarms. Most days, it takes me a while to really get going. If, however, the day promises something out of the ordinary and pleasant, like the beginning of a vacation, I've been known to wake up before the alarm clock goes off. But the prospect of an unpleasant day makes getting up that much more challenging, and pulling the covers over my head that much more alluring.

That's one thing, among many, that makes the faith of Abraham so amazing to me. There are three times in his life that the Bible says he arose early in the morning—and he knew on all three of those days that what he had to do would not be pleasant.

The first is **Genesis 19:27** where Moses tells us that Abraham “*went early in the morning*” to a special location where he would survey the destroyed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The second is **Genesis 21:14**. There Abraham “*rose early in the morning*” and with great sadness kicked Hagar and Ishmael out of his house to appease Sarah. The third is **Genesis 22:3** when Abraham “*rose early in the morning*” to take Isaac to Mount Moriah with the intention of sacrificing him to God.

Abraham, no doubt, arose early to some beautiful mornings and pleasant activities. But his only early mornings specifically mentioned in the Bible are the three above. How brutal they must have been! How tempting it must have been for him to keep rolling over and sleeping just a little longer. But instead of hiding under the covers, he rose up early and met the challenges of the day.

Life brings with it many unpleasant days. But with the help of God and the faith of Abraham, we can throw off the covers, confidently rise from our beds, and face what each day brings. For God has promised, “*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*” (**Isa. 41:10**).

Eddie Parrish
Brown Trail church of Christ
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