

When Isaac Asks, “Why Are You Killing Me?”

By: Tim Yaeger

Sometimes we fail to understand faith and the role that it plays in our lives. Thankfully, the Bible describes the source of our faith as coming from what God says. Paul says, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” ([Rom. 10:17](#)). This is why the Great Commission Jesus gave just before His ascension is so important. He told the apostles to preach the gospel to every creature, and those who heard the message and believed it and were baptized would be saved ([Mark 16:15-16](#)). Faith, trusting in God, is our response to His plan and why it is so important to see the role it plays.

Faith does not come because we have used our own minds to find God. However, to know only intellectually what God wants to do is far different from trusting with all our hearts and doing what He says, even if we may have no other reason for doing it. Sometimes small children can understand intellectually and see why they should obey parents. When a parent tells a child to be watchful and careful about walking down steps, a child can understand what mom or dad said. They may not know the “why” until they ignore what was said, and after tumbling down those steps, they begin to listen when told not to touch a hot stove. Faith is trusting and doing what a parent says, even though we are too young to comprehend anything about hot stoves.

Faith in God is not seen when we only do those things we can comprehend why God

wants us to do it. The faith of Abraham is seen most vividly when he takes Isaac, binds him up, places him on an altar and raises the knife to kill him ([Gen. 22](#)). Abraham is not doing this horrendous act because Abraham understands why he is doing it. Had Isaac asked him why are you doing this, there is just one answer. You know what that answer is, and it is sometimes the one answer we can give for some things we do in serving God. Abraham’s faith and our faith is seen most vividly when we respond with one answer, “Because God told me to.”

After God intervened and kept Isaac from being killed, He said, “Now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me” (v. 12). God knew and Abraham knew. We also read this, and we know about faith and its place in our salvation and the vital role it plays in our obedient service to God.

Why do we dip people in water? Why do we eat unleavened bread? Why do we give back to God what is already His? Why do we turn the other cheek? Why do we love our enemies? Why do we...? Why do we...? Why do we...? The one answer is the same one Abraham had—*because this is what God told me to do!* And these nine words define faith. Faith is doing what He told me to do every time, all the time!

Personally Imposed Distractions

By: Selected

Some distractions are unavoidable and created by others—like when someone literally gets in your face. Other distractions, even if created by others, are easier to disregard and can be managed, if we try. So, think about a place where distractions exist but we wish they didn't—in a worship assembly. But, how many of the distractions are self-imposed? Or, how many could we control, if we tried?

Imagine being a Jew at the temple, with the sound, smell and sight of animals being slaughtered. Could that distract you from worshipping God? Imagine the sight of the priest with blood on his hands and his garment. Distracting? Imagine the delay when older priests took longer to carry out their duties than others. Are you distracted? Imagine being outside in the temple court, exposed to the elements and dealing with uncomfortable temperatures or precipitation. Would that distract your mind from staying focused? It could have a real negative impact on you, if you allowed it.

What about in our modern worship assemblies? Do the sounds and sights of crying babies or the ruckus caused by children distract you from worshipping God? Do the members constantly on their phones and not paying attention or really engaging in worship distract you? Does what the men leading in worship are wearing distract you? Do the mannerisms or efforts of older men leading in worship distract you? Do the mannerisms or efforts of younger men leading in worship distract you? Does the temperature of the auditorium distract you? Does the length of the comments before the Lord's Supper distract you? Does the song selection

distract you? Does the length of the sermon or the service itself distract you?

Can I encourage you to read through that list again? Can I ask you to add other things to the list that have been common distractions for you in worship?

Then, can I ask you—how many of these distractions are self-imposed? (There are several on that list which are choices one makes, not actual distractions.) Can I ask you—how many of these distractions could be controlled by your mind, if you really tried? The mind is powerful, even able to disregard crying babies and noisy kids. After you have whittled away at your list of “distracting things” in worship, how many actual distractions are left?

Some distractions can be overcome by sitting up front, or by pouring yourself deeply into the worship, or by bringing stray thoughts into captivity and control. Whatever may be distracting you from throwing your whole “heart” and self into worshipping God ([Col. 3:14-17, 23](#)), may I encourage you to identify it, evaluate it and work fervently to eliminate it.



Upcoming Events

May 2-3: Midtown's Challenging the Church with speaker Brant Stubblefield.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Kanin Jacobs who dislocated his elbow last week.

Nancy Dorris nephew, Adam Stansbury, who has cellulitis.

Jerri Rosales who was in the hospital last week with an infection. The doctors caught the infection early and Jerri is now at home.

Rieke Bass who was ill and is now doing better.

Veronica Serenil who is recovering from surgery.

Janis Fossati, Willie Fossati's mother and Nancy Fortenberry's sister, who will be having medical tests done.

Lonnie Horton, Benny's brother, who had a successful surgery.

Service Roster

Week of March 22, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen
Song Leader.....Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Doug Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Clifton Rutherford
Offering..... Benny Horton
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist.....Bryce Dolan

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Willie Fossati

Lord's Supper & Offering.....James Cammock/
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Cody McCoy
Song Leader.....Richard Hill
Devotional.....Kevin Sheeran

Other

Prepare Communion for March.....Craig Dolan

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Billy York.....Mar. 23
Imelda Sheeran.....Mar. 26

Anniversaries

Brenden & Lori Westphall.....Mar. 28

Volunteers Needed

The Sign up sheets for ways to serve for 2026 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Please sign up.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
1 John 4:4

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of March 15, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....61
A.M. Worship.....83
P.M. Worship.....61
Wednesday Worship.....58

Financial information is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

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