

July 9, 2017

Dallas Bivins

ATROPHY
SHRUNKEN FAITH AND COASTING ON THE PAST
Life of Isaac

Isaac's name is mentioned 119 times overall, 33 times with "Abraham, Isaac and Jacob".

?? WHAT DID HE EVER DO??
EVERYTHING HE HAD... HE INHERITED

HIS WEAKNESS becomes OUR GREATEST LESSON

ISAAC'S BEST LESSON FOR US IS THAT OF
SPIRITUAL ATROPHY

THE DISTINGUISHING MARKS of SPIRITUAL ATROPHY

- 1. YOUR GREATEST DAYS ARE IN THE PAST**
- 2. YOU DEPEND ON OTHERS TO PROVIDE THE BLESSING**
- 3. YOUR DISCERNMENT WITHERS and**
YOU BECOME EASILY ENTANGLED
- 4. YOU ARE DRIVEN BY YOUR APPETITES**

1. YOUR GREATEST DAYS ARE IN THE PAST (Genesis 21-22)

Isaac's promised birth - 12:1-3

Fruition of birth - 21:1-8

Name means laughter - great celebrations, laughter, feasts.

HE IS THE ONE! (Even Ishmael isn't "the first born." (22:2))

EVEN HIS SACRIFICE, HIS SHINING MOMENT - ISAAC IS SEEN AS AN
UNKNOWN PARTICIPANT. (22:1-8)

2. YOU DEPEND ON OTHERS TO PROVIDE THE BLESSING (Genesis 24)

Even in his adult life (he's about 40) he is still dependent on his father to provide the blessing for him.

MANY PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH EXPECTING THE PASTOR OR
BIBLE STUDY LEADER OR
SOMEBODY TO "SPOON-FEED" THEM...
EVEN THOUGH...
THEY ARE CAPABLE OF SEEKING GOD'S WILL FOR THEMSELVES!

3. YOUR DISCERNMENT WITHERS - YOU BECOME EASILY ENTANGLED (Genesis 25-26)

Isaac's life is marked by his lessening spiritual thrust.

*COMPARE ISAAC'S LIE (26:7) to ABRAHAM'S LIE (20:2)

Both father and son tried to pass off their wives as sisters.

Expedience was Isaac's motivation.

He seemed to dwell in the land of, "If it works, do it!"

HIS WORK, THOUGH GOD-BLESSED, WAS OFF ANOTHER'S BLESSING.

Choose to follow God – even when it goes against your father, mother, friends, etc.

Matthew 12:46-50, 1 John 4:1

4. YOU ARE DRIVEN BY YOUR APPETITES (Genesis 25-27)

Isaac **loved** ESAU because of his love for meat. (25:27-28)

This COMPULSIVE LOVE for the SATISFACTION of his TEMPORAL NEEDS LED TO HIS DOWNFALL. (27)

THE RAVAGES OF ATROPHY? THE STOLEN BLESSING. (27)

Even when he wasn't sure, the food was more important.

When he found out he was duped:

He trembled uncontrollably - how could they do this to me - plays the **VICTIM**.

He resigned himself to this state and Esau would suffer - passes the **BUCK**.

HOW DO I CONQUER ATROPHY?

4 DAILY SURRENDERS...

Jesus reminded us to **THANK GOD for our DAILY BREAD.** (Matthew 6:11)

We are to **DENY OURSELVES, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, FOLLOW DAILY.**
(Luke 9:23)

The Bereans – blessed because they **SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY.**
(Acts 17:11)

Paul noted that **IN CHRIST, WE DIE DAILY.** (1 Corinthians 15:31)