

## When Obedience Feels Impossible by John Piper

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.*  
(Hebrews 11:17)

For many of you right now — and for others of you the time is coming — obedience feels like the end of a dream. You feel that if you do what the word of God or the Spirit of God is calling you to do, it will make you miserable and that there is no way that God could turn it all for good.

Perhaps the command or call of God you hear just now is to stay married or stay single, to stay in that job or leave that job, to get baptized, to speak up at work about Christ, to refuse to compromise your standards of honesty, to confront a person in sin, to venture a new vocation, to be a missionary. And as you see it in your limited mind, the prospect of doing this is terrible —

it's like the loss of Isaac, the only son who can be an heir.

You have considered every human angle, and it is impossible that it could turn out well.

Now you know what it was like for Abraham. This story is in the Bible for you.

Do you desire God and his way and his promises more than anything, and do you believe that he can and will honor your faith and obedience by being unashamed to call himself your God, and to use all his wisdom and power and love to turn the path of obedience into the path of life and joy?

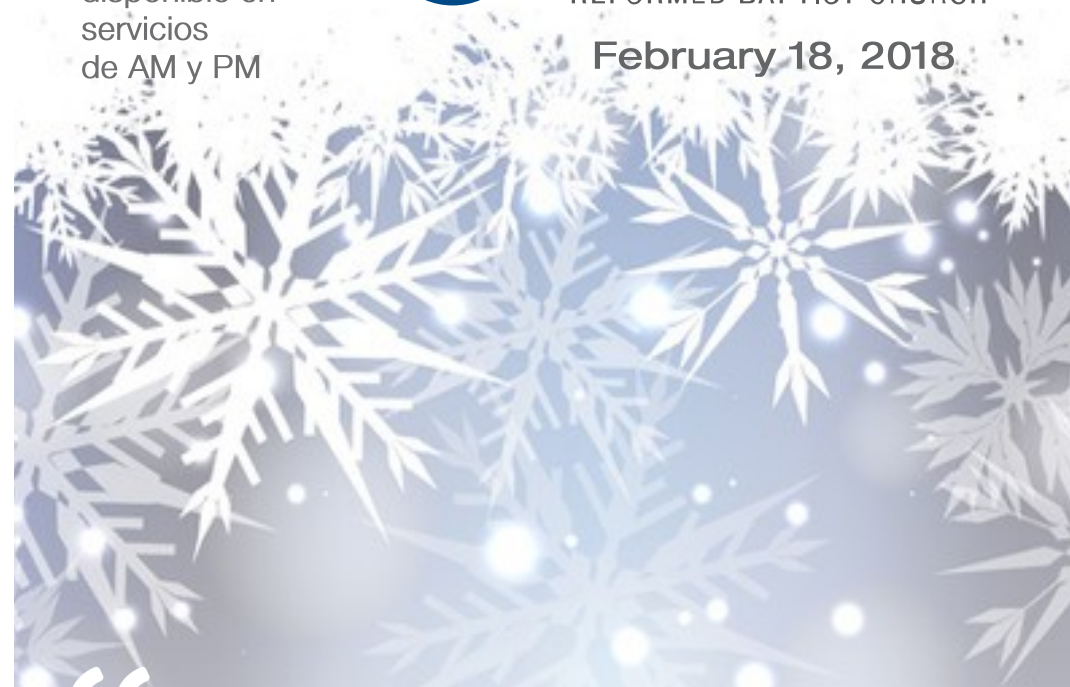
That is the crisis you face now: Do you desire him? Will you trust him? The word of God to you is: God is worthy and God is able.

Traducción  
simultanea  
al español  
disponible en  
servicios  
de AM y PM



**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

February 18, 2018



“I know  
the plans I have for you,  
plans for a **FUTURE**  
and a **HOPE**”

JEREMIAH 29:11

### Events

TODAY College & Career Pasta &  
Prayer at Dekker's 7 PM  
2/21 Youth Prayer Meeting 7:15  
2/23 Work as Worship Retreat  
3/3 Ladies Missionary Society  
9 AM

### Give



### Upcoming Events



### Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

### Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am  
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm  
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm  
919-563-9249 [www.grbc.net](http://www.grbc.net)

## Morning Worship

### Call to Worship

Nick Gaines

### Opening Hymn

See the Destined Day Arise

See the destined day arise! See a willing sacrifice!

Jesus to redeem our loss hangs upon the shameful cross

Jesus who but You could bear wrath so great and justice fair?

Every pang and bitter throe finishing your life of woe?

**(Chorus) Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Lamb of God for sinners slain!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ we praise your name!**

Who but Christ had dared to drain steeped in gall the cup of pain

And with tender body bear thorns and nails and piercing spear?

Slain for us the water flowed mingled from your side with blood

Sign to all attesting eyes of the finished sacrifice **(Chorus)**

(Holy Jesus grant us grace in that sacrifice to place

All our trust for life renewed pardoned sin and promised good

Grant us grace to sing your praise 'round your throne through endless days

Ever with the sons of light: "Blessing, honor, glory, might!" **(2x Chorus)**

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### Scripture Reading

John 1:35-51, page 886

### Pastoral Prayer

### Offertory

#544 How Sweet the Name

### Preparatory

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;

this Cornerstone, this Solid Ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace; when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand!

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless Babe!

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross as Jesus died; the wrath of God was satisfied.

For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live!

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain;

then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;

for I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ!

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;

from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny!

No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;

'til He returns or calls me home; here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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### Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

## Evening Worship

### Call to Worship

Pastor Stephen Byrd

### Opening Hymn

#15 Come Let Us Sing Unto the  
Lord

### Scripture Reading

1 John 2:24-3:10, page 1022

### Pastoral Prayer

### Offertory

#426 Thou Hidden Source of Calm  
Wonderful, Merciful Savior

### Preparatory

Wonderful, merciful Savior

Precious Redeemer and Friend

Who would have thought that a Lamb could

Rescue the souls of men

Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper

Spirit we long to embrace

You offer hope when our hearts have

Hopelessly lost our way

Oh, we've hopelessly lost our way

**(Chorus) You are the One that we praise**

**You are the One we adore**

**You give the healing and grace**

**Our hearts always hunger for**

**Oh, our hearts always hunger for**

Almighty, infinite Father

Faithfully loving Your own

Here in our weakness You find us

Falling before Your throne

Oh, we're falling before Your throne

**(Chorus 2x)**

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### Sermon

Pastor Michael Lopes