

I Need a Hero! - Old Testament Characters that teach us New Testament Truths

(Part 1)

Isaac, a man who stood up to pressure (Gen. 21:3)

Introduction: Today we meet the first of a series of Old Testament characters that will teach us New Testament truths. An honest look at the life and experiences, of “Isaac,” a man whose name means “laughter,” but whose life shows him to be a man under constant pressure, will help teach us how to successfully deal with the pressures of our own lives. We begin with a look at,

I. Isaac’s privileged position: (Gen. 21:3)

Isaac, the only son of Abraham by Sarah, was the child of promise from God.

A. His destiny –

1. Isaac was a son of promise. (His name means laughter which is an indication of the joy that comes when faith is honored.)
2. Isaac was a son of purpose. Isaac is one of only a few cases in the Bible in which God selected the name for a child and announced it before he was born.
3. Isaac as a son was a picture. Isaac serves as a type (i.e.) picture of Christ:

B. His responsibility – In order for Isaac to reach his destiny, he had to follow God’s plan.

God has a destiny of promise for each of us to fulfill but getting there means taking responsibility to become God’s own, both in heart and life! (But even this does not mean a life free of pressures)

II. Isaac’s pressure points: (Gen.26)

The most important thing Isaac received from his parents was a spiritual wealth that taught him to trust in the true and living God while he faced the pressures of everyday life.

A. He had personal pressures – There is every indication that though Isaac endured the pressures of everyday life, he did it by en-trusting all things into the hands of God.

B. He had psychological pressures – When the pressures of life bring about circumstances that seem impossible to change for man, God can change the circumstances!

C. He had political pressures – It doesn’t matter how spiritually or physically wealthy you are – your faith will be tested.

D. He had professional pressures – (Gen. 26:12-33)

When it comes to conflicts in life, work or school, we need to use discernment. (Rom.12:18; Js. 3:17; Prov. 16:7)

E. He had parental pressures – (v.34-35) If we don’t stay strong on a daily basis, it is usually at home that we feel it first!

What a wonderful testimony Isaac had “*We have certainly seen the Lord is with you.*” (Gen.26:28)

III. Isaac’s practical pointers:

1. Draw continually on divine resources –

- a. God’s Word to guide us in times of pressure. (Gen.26:2,24)
- b. God’s strength to take us through times of pressure. (Phil. 4:13)

2. Decide convincingly your proper place – (Gen. 26:25)

- a. Isaac’s place was before the Lord.
- b. He built an altar and there gave the Lord his heart, life and his all!

3. Discover constantly your potential ministry – (Gen.26:28)

- a. First and foremost is to let people see Christ in you!
- b. And then people, will come to you after seeing you respond to pressures because they will have seen something in you that says you can help them find what you have – the Lord! (1 Pe. 3:15)

Conclusion: There is a tendency for us as Bible readers to place biblical characters on pedestals. But this only serves to destroy the truth that God is trying to convey in the recording of His dealings with people.

By looking at Isaac’s experiences we have seen how he endured and stood up to many of the same everyday pressures that we encounter. We can also see how his good character traits, holiness, successes and spiritual victories can be ours as well if we too will stand up to our life’s pressures with the presence and power of God as our personal strength.