

**OATH OF OFFICE:** *"I [state your full name], having been appointed a (rank) in the United States Air Force, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the **Constitution of the United States** against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, w/o any mental reservation or purpose of evasion and I will faithfully discharge the duties of office I am about to enter ~ so help me God.*

In WW II Japanese military swore their allegiance to the Emperor ... to the **person**, not the office. The Japanese culture lead all people to want to make him proud ... military members would rather die than surrender ... as that was too shameful.

**PHOTO** 48 yrs ago ... on Jan 24, 1972 ... on very interesting happened

The story starts back in 1943, Yokoi served his Emperor by defending Guam ~~ when American forces captured the island in 1944, Yokoi hide in the rain forest with nine other Japanese soldiers. Seven of the original ten eventually moved away and only three remained in the area. These men separated, but visited each other periodically until about **1964**, when the other two died in a flood. For the last eight years, he lived alone, surviving by hunting, primarily at night. He also used native plants to make clothes, bedding, and storage implements, which he carefully hid in his cave.

Despite having hidden for twenty-eight years in a jungle cave, he had **known** since 1952 that **World War II** had ended in Sept 1945. He feared coming out of hiding, explaining, *" Japanese soldiers were told to prefer death to the disgrace of getting captured alive."* He said upon his return to Japan: "It is with much **embarrassment** that I return." He was given **\$300.00** - US in back pay ... and a small retirement

Although he never met **Emperor Hirohito**, while visiting the grounds of the Imperial Palace upon his return, he said: *"Your Majesty, I have returned home ... I deeply regret that I could not serve you well. The world has certainly changed, but my determination to serve you will never change."*

He wanted so badly to have made the **Emperor proud** .....

# HOW TO MAKE GOD PROUD

Heb 11:8 - 10  
N = 12; Spring 2014

## INTRO

- As a child with their parents ~~ all of us would like to have God be proud of us
  - To find out how to do this ... we'll consider a person of whom God is **very proud**
    - God says repeatedly in Scripture: I am the God of Abraham ( N = 6 )
      - God was proud to be Abraham's God because of his obedient faith
- If we are to make God proud ~~ we must be willing to face **four** things:

## **FIRST ~ WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR DIRECTIONS**

- Abraham was born @ 2160 BC ~ was known as Abram until God changed his name
  - **OT** names had greater significant than today as they described **one's character**
    - Abram = "high father" ~~ **Abraham** = father of a multitude
  - His childhood was in **Ur** ... @ 150 miles from the Persian Gulf ... in Iraq
    - **Heb 11:8**
- Bible doesn't say "how" God called Abraham ~ but God told him to leave his home ...
  - **Our** obeying God ... always begins by leaving "**Ur**" - *our old way of life*
    - Journey starts by taking a step in the direction of God's Will for our life
      - Usually this is something that seems hard to do ~ **Luke 9:23**
- **Cross** is whatever makes it difficult for us to follow Jesus ~ IAW God's Word
  - Maybe it's where we work ~ a family member ~ peer pressure ~ a temptation
    - Making God proud doesn't require our perfection ... just our **obedience**
  - **Heb 11:8** tells us Abraham obeyed - even thou he didn't know where to go
    - Many people ask God: "*What do you want me to do?*"
      - His usual answer is: **"Get moving first ~ then I'll direct you"**
        - **Can't steer a sailboat ... unless its underway**

- Here's the principle: To get God's Direction ... we first have to obey what we already know from God's Word ~ ~ **John 13:17**
  - Word of God gives direction and motivation for living an authentic Christian Life
    - Useful to always remember what King David shares in **Psm 62:12 [CW]**
      - "A second thing I know about God is that He's loving, kind, and fair. He'll reward each person according to what (they have) done."
- Obedience is following God's direction ~ one step at a time ~ even when we don't know where He's leading us
  - **To make God proud** ... we must be prepared for His **directions** ~ and:

## **SECOND ~ WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR DELAYS**

- Abraham obeyed God ~ **Heb 11:9**
  - I'm convinced Abraham's obedience is solely based on one word: **promise**
    - God is proud of people who live on promises and don't need explanations
- God promised Abraham he'd receive land for himself and his descendants
  - However when Abraham arrived in the land ... there was a significant **delay**
- Gen Chpt 25 states Abraham lived to be **175** ... some 100 yrs **after** he left **UR**
  - We read in Heb 11:9 ~ he lived in tents - - - as did Isaac and Jacob
    - Isaac was Abraham's son ... and Jacob was Abraham's grandson
      - So Abraham live in tents ... as did **two more** generations ... **before** the promise of receiving the land was fulfilled
- Abraham lived the life of an "alien" and didn't fit into the surrounding society
  - He worshipped the One True God ... while his contemporaries were pagans
    - His standard of morality was based on the Character of God ... while the people of his day participated in orgies and cults in their pagan worship
      - Abraham faced multitudes of physical temptation from his society
      - A Christian life God can be proud of is similar to **his** ~ **1 Pet 2:11**

- God always calls His Children to live as aliens in a world that's foreign to us
  - We won't "fit in" to this sin-sick world **when** we live as God directs
    - When we live for Jesus - we'll be **despise**, **criticized**, and often **ostracized**
      - When some of our friends/associates don't like us because we don't fit in ~ let's remember the words of **Jesus** in **John 15:18, 19**
- Like **Abraham** ~ we're sojourners in this present age ... believing God's promise for a homeland that we'll never receive in this sin-sick world
  - Abraham camped out for 100 yrs - and w/ a few exceptions was a happy camper
    - **Heb 11:10** ~ pretty sure Abraham was looking forward to **Heaven**
- Not only did Abraham have to wait for the his Promised Land ... he waited for something else ~ **Vs 11, 12**
  - He was **99** ~ Sarah - **90** ... both past childbearing age and w/o any children
    - One day three visitors came to visit ... 1 was the **Lord** ~ 2 were angels
      - **Gen 18:10** In one year's time ~ **Isaac** was born
- We may face problems which seem impossible ~ we don't see how God can keep His promise to answer our prayers
  - We might ponder:
    - How are we going to get out of debt?
    - How are we going to get our kids through college?
    - How much longer must I endure this physical problem?
    - Will my marriage ever turn around ~ be a positive one?
  - **Must remember** ~ saints who make God proud **don't** live on explanations ... rather we live on **God's promises** **Proverbs 3:5, 6**
    - We're **not** to try to figure things out using human intelligence
      - A person of whom God is proud believes His promises even when they seem impossible to us
        - It's not critical to know the future ... its key to know **Who** holds the future ~~ and trust in His promises
- **To make God proud of us** ... we must be prepared for **directions**; **delays** ... and:

### THIRD ~ WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR DISAPPOINTMENTS

- **Can't prove this** ... I think the time when God was most proud of Abraham is described in - **Heb 11:17, 18**
  - After years of waiting and the miracle of his son's birth ~ God instructs **Abraham** to sacrifice **Isaac** on Mount Moriah
    - To Abraham ... Isaac represents everything God had promised
      - Must have seemed so unfair and cruel ~ such a disappointment
- Yet ... Abraham immediately obeyed God and headed for Mt Moriah to sacrifice his son
  - **V 19**
    - Abraham believed that if God could give him a miracle child once ... He could do it again ~~ even if He had to raise Isaac from the dead
      - In this experience – Abraham saw something that no person would see ... nor understand until the time of Christ
        - **John 8:56**
- Because Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son on Mt Moriah ~ he could see the coming sacrifice of Jesus some 2,500 yrs later
  - Abraham is the **1<sup>st</sup>** person to overtly believe in God's power to raise the dead
    - This belief is essential for all of God's Children ~ **Rom 10:9**
- Abraham didn't understand much of what God allowed him to go through during his life
  - There are a lot of things in life we just won't understand ~ nor ever figure out
    - We'll never know answers to some of our questions till we get to Heaven
- Life on this sin-sick world is often unfair ...
  - ... we're tempted to ask God to explain **why** He allows certain things to happen
    - There's **nothing wrong** with asking – why?
      - Real test of faith is how we react when God chooses **not** to explain
        - Best to accept the fact ~ this sinful life just isn't fair

- Pastors across all denomination see some saints fall by the wayside when they start looking for an explanation ... rather than holding on to God's promises
  - If God explained everything that happens ... we wouldn't have to live by faith
    - And we've already learned: **w/o faith ~ it's impossible to please Him**
- **To make God proud** ... we must be prepared for **d**irections; **d**elays, **d**isappointments ... and:

## **FORTH ~ WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR DEATH**

- After 100 yrs of living in tents (at the age of 175) ... Abraham died: **Gen 25:7 – 9 a**
  - The phrase **full of years** means Abraham was **satisfied** with his life ...
    - Confident he experienced the promise given to those who God is proud of
      - **Psm 36:8**
- A wise person once said:
  - *Never judge the path God leads you on ... until you get to the **end** !*
- Most of us will face the first death -- what we do while we're living is what matters
  - **Will our lives make God Proud ??**
    - Some Scriptures to ponder:
      - **Ish 40:31**
      - **Ish 58:11**
      - **Jer 29:11 – 14 a**
      - **Rom 8:28**

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**\* Jan 24, 1972**

**PHOTO**

In 1943, Yokoi served in the **Mariana Islands** (Guam) ~~ when American forces captured Guam in 1944, Yokoi went into hiding with nine other Japanese soldiers. Seven of the original ten eventually moved away and only three remained in the region. These men separated, but visited each other periodically until about **1964**, when the other two died in a flood. For the last eight years, Yokoi lived alone. He survived by hunting, primarily at night. He also used native plants to make clothes, bedding, and storage implements, which he carefully hid in his cave.

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