**Study Guide: To The Summit Part 6**

**Introduction:**

* The text explores the journey of Abraham from skepticism and half-way faith to obedience and true faith in God's promises.
* Abraham's story serves as a powerful example of the challenges and rewards of living by faith.

**1. Skepticism and Half-Way Faith:**

* Many individuals struggle with skepticism and half-way faith when confronted with God's commands and promises.
* The journey to authentic faith can be long and arduous, marked by doubts, fears, and uncertainty.

**2. Paul's Call for Gentleness:**

* Paul's exhortation to "Let your gentleness be known to everyone" (Philippians 4:5) challenges conventional wisdom in a harsh world.
* Initial skepticism towards this command reflects common fears and misconceptions about gentleness and its effectiveness.

**3. Abraham's Journey of Faith:**

* Abraham, called by God to leave his homeland and trust in God's promises, faces numerous trials and struggles along the way.
* Despite God's assurances, Abraham's skepticism and half-way faith lead to a series of missteps and hardships.

**4. The Consequences of Half-Way Faith:**

* Abraham's failure to fully trust God results in unnecessary struggles, compromises, and relational tensions within his family.
* His attempts to take matters into his own hands only lead to further complications and hardships.

**5. God's Faithfulness and Abraham's Obedience:**

* Despite Abraham's shortcomings, God remains faithful to His promises and provides for Abraham in unexpected ways.
* Abraham's eventual obedience and unwavering faith in God's provision pave the way for the fulfillment of God's covenant promises.

**6. The Sacrifice of Isaac:**

* The ultimate test of Abraham's faith comes with God's command to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac.
* Abraham's obedience, demonstrated through his willingness to obey God's command, reveals the depth of his faith and trust in God's provision.

**7. God's Provision and Covenant Renewal:**

* At the last moment, God provides a ram as a substitute for Isaac, illustrating His justice and mercy.
* God renews His covenant with Abraham, promising blessings for all nations through his offspring, affirming the power of faithful obedience.

**8. Application to Our Lives:**

* Abraham's journey teaches us the importance of trusting God fully and obeying His commands, even in the face of skepticism and uncertainty.
* Through faith, we can experience the transformative power of God's provision and fulfill our purpose in His redemption story.

**Discussion Questions:**

* How does skepticism and half-way faith hinder our journey of faith and obedience?
* Reflect on a time when you struggled to trust God's promises and commands. What were the consequences?
* What misconceptions or fears do you have about embodying traits like gentleness in a harsh world?
* How does Abraham's story challenge our understanding of obedience and trust in God's provision?
* In what ways can we cultivate unwavering faith and obedience in our own lives, even in the face of uncertainty and doubt?

**Conclusion:**

* Abraham's story reminds us of the transformative power of faith and obedience in God's redemption story.
* Through trust and obedience, we can overcome skepticism and half-way faith, experiencing the fullness of God's promises and blessings.