

## *Availability To God*

*“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am” (Gen. 22:1).*

There were three different telephone numbers on the calling card the businessman handed me. I called all of the numbers several times, but I only reached his voice mail. At first I thought he was out of town or that he didn't want me to talk to me. But a friend explained that he was so busy, it was almost impossible to contact him by phone. Because the fellow wasn't available, I gave up and haven't called again.

Three times in this chapter we hear the patriarch Abraham say, “Here I am” or “Here am I” (22:1, 7, 11). To say the least, there are several other great words and statements in this story. But because this response illustrates how Abraham was available to God, it must be placed at the top of the list. Without question, genuine availability to God is nowhere more vividly illustrated than in this scene.

Abraham is numbered among a rare breed of submissive hearts in the Bible who were available to God. Jacob, in his old age (see Gen. 46:2); Moses, on the backside of the desert (see Exo. 3:4); Samuel, as a little child (see 1 Sam. 3:4); Isaiah, a future prophet and writer (see Isa. 6:8); and Ananias, an unusual servant (see Acts 9:10); all responded, “Here am I,” to God. May this same spirit of availability prevail in each of us.

*Availability to God means that we are interested in what God has to say!* Abraham's answer, “Here I am,” indicates that he had an ear for God. The Lord didn't have to call him several times; he was listening to what God had to say! Our God is not silent! By His Spirit He also speaks to you and me. In an hour of many voices, we need to be available to Him, vitally interested in what He has to say.

*Availability to God means that we are willing to do what God wants us to do!* With God's calls come His demands. Although the Lord had a very demanding word for Abraham, his “Here I am” indicated he was yielded to whatever God had in mind. Availability to God is giving ourselves to the will of God before we're fully knowledgeable of it. It is saying “Yes” to God before we know the consequences.

*Availability to God means that we are trusting God with the outcome!* “Here I am” is a confession of personal faith. It is not only believing that God speaks, and that God demands, but that God will also do what is best. It is trusting in the Lord with all our heart and leaning not to our own understanding (see Prov. 3:5). May the “Here I am” of Abraham be an inspiration for us to exhibit true availability to God.