

The Test of Faith—Abraham with Isaac

Faith Stands on the P.R.O.M.I.S.E.S of God (Hebrews 11:17-19)

Biblical faith is a confident trust in whatever God says is true and acting on it regardless of the circumstances or consequences.

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NASB)

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

In times of testing Faith stands on the **P.R.O.M.I.S.E.S.** of God.

Faith: Prepares in Advance (Heb. 11:17)

➤ **Test Fact #1: God Will Test Our Faith.**

- Testing for the follower of God is guaranteed.
- God tests us to know what is in our heart, whether we will keep His commandments or not (1 Thess. 2:3-4; Deut. 8:2).

➤ **Test Fact #2: Testing Is Not Tempting.**

- The Agent: God tests | Satan tempts (James 1:13).
- The Purpose: Testing and trials are for the purpose of strengthening and purifying.

Faith: Remembers God's Character (Gen. 22:1a)

➤ **Test Fact #3: God Prepares His Children for Testing.**

- This was not Abraham's first experience with God.
- Abraham had experienced a miracle from God.

When we remember and reflect on what God has done in the past, we can have **strong encouragement** that He will keep His promises regarding what He has said He will do in the future.

Faith: Obeys Immediately and Completely (Gen. 22:2-3)

➤ **Test Fact #4: God Initiates the Timing of Our Tests.**

- God's tests often come upon us when we least expect them.
- When the tests come, faith obeys God immediately and completely (Gen 22:3).

➤ **Test Fact #5: God Sets the Terms of Our Tests.**

- God knows what to test.
- God knows when to test it.
- He knows exactly how to test us.

Abraham obeyed by standing on the promises of God:

- ❖ Abraham knew that the command of God did not invalidate the promises of God.
- ❖ Abraham also knew that the promises of God did not nullify the command of God.

Faith: Meditates on God's Word (Heb. 11:12, 17-18)

Abraham obeyed God's command by standing firmly on God's Word—His Promise.

➤ **Test Fact #6: God's Tests Are Open Book.**

- We have access to God's Word before, during, and after our testing.
- We meditate on God's Word and treasure it up in our heart so that we will not sin against him (Ps. 119:11).

Faith: Imagines the Future with Hope (Heb. 11:19a; Rom. 4:18-21; Gen. 22:5-8)

Abraham considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead (Heb. 11:19a).

➤ **Test Fact #7: God's Tests Can Be Challenging.**

- The problem: The seeming contradiction between the promises of God and the commanded God.
- The Solution: The logical deduction that God would have to raise Isaac from the dead.
- Abraham believed in something he had never seen or heard of before—resurrection from the dead.

➤ **Test Fact #8: God's Tests Require Faith.**

- It was "By faith" that Abraham trusted God's promise, obeyed God's command, and hoped in God.
- Abraham responded to uncertainty with trust in the Word of God.

Hope in God's Word is a Guarantee!

Faith: Stands Firm (Heb. 11:17; Gen. 22:1b)

- Abraham was declared righteous by faith, because he believed God's promise. (Gen. 15:5-6; Rom. 4:1-25; Gal. 3:6).
- But, the quality of Abraham's faith was proved by his works through testing. (Gen. 22:15-18; Jas. 2:21-24).

Faith stands firm because faith never stands alone.

➤ **Test Fact #9: God's Tests Are Custom Fit.**

- God's tests are tailor made.
- Genesis 22 must be viewed against the backdrop of what comes before it, and with a view towards the horizon of what comes after it.

Faith: Endures through Testing/Trials (Heb. 11:17; Gen. 22:9-12)

➤ **Test Fact #10: God Has A Purpose for Each Test.**

- Testing and trials are for the purpose of strengthening and purifying.
- Temptations can be and must be rejected.
- Testing must be endured (Jas. 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5a).

➤ **Test Fact #11: God Knows Exactly When to End Our Tests**

- God's timing is always best and perfect.
- Faith endures through trials all the way to the end.
- So, how far are you willing to go?

Faith: Shares the Gospel (Heb. 11:19b; Gen. 22:13-14)

Abraham received Isaac back from the dead figuratively speaking (Heb. 11:19b).

➤ **Test Fact #12: God Provides for Us in Our Testing.**

- The Lord Will Provide (Gen. 22:14)
- God prepares in advance for our testing (Eph 2:8-10).
- He is the God that provides.

Conclusion

God is faithful. He is the promise keeper.

You have been granted everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

He has given you His precious and magnificent promises (2 Pet. 1:4).

Abraham stood on a promise from God about descendants.

We can stand **on a mountain of promises!**

There are some 8,000 promises in the Bible.

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Faith **P**repares in Advance

Faith **R**emembers God's Character

Faith **O**beyes Immediately and Completely

Faith **M**editates on God's Word

Faith **I**magines the Future with Hope

Faith **S**tands Firm

Faith **E**ndures through Testing, and

Faith **S**hares the Gospel.