

You Will Be Tested!

Gen. 22:1-18

1. Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.
2. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."
3. Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.
4. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.
5. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."
6. Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,
7. Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"
8. Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.
9. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
10. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
11. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.
12. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."
13. Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.
14. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."
15. The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time
16. and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,
17. I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

18. and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Hebrews 11:17-19

17. By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,

18. even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

19. Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Satan tempts to bring out the bad, but God tests to bring out the good!

A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted!

In Genesis 21, Abraham was asked to send away his son Ishmael.

Galatians 4 tells us that Ishmael represented the world and the works of the flesh.

We will never give God our Isaacs until we have sent away our Ishmaels!

We agree that God has the right to ask us to give up the bad, but we never expect him to ask the good!

I. The Possessions Test

There's a big difference between giving up something for the Lord and giving it to the Lord.

God had given Abraham a priceless possession and then asked for it back.

It was the test of Abraham's faith because he loved both Isaac and God.

It is not enough to give God a place in our life, or prominence, or priority... God wants to have preeminence!

He has blessed us with liberty, prosperity and technology... Yet many times, we seem to be more in love with the gifts of this world than we are of the One who created the world in the first place!

Somewhere along life's journey, God will ask us to give some blessings back to Him.

II. The Purpose Test

"With Isaac there is a purpose, and through him the nations will be blessed."

Understanding and doing the will of God requires three simple steps... Finding, following and finishing the will of God!

Anything less than complete obedience is disobedience!

Faith is not simply obeying in spite of the evidence; it's obeying in spite of the consequences... And it's obeying whether or not we understand the purpose!

We could save ourselves a lot of trouble doing things His way the first time!

We need to have an informed and intentional obedience!

When Isaac said, "We have the wood, the fire and the knife, but where is the sacrifice," Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

III. The Promise Test

God said to Abraham years earlier, "You are going to have a son. It's going to happen."

Further God said, "Not only are you going to have a son; all the world will be blessed through your son Isaac and his descendants."

Corrie Ten Boom - "Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible."

Remember that when it comes to the faith walk... First it's impossible, Then it's difficult, Then it's done!

NOBODY is exempt from these tests! You will be tested with the Possessions test, the Purpose test and the Promise test! And know that one day there will be a final exam!