

Your Faith Will Be Tested

Hebrews 11:17-19

“And it came to pass God tested Abraham” (Genesis 22:1). The KJV word is ‘tempt’ but it means ‘test to prove’ rather than ‘tempt to do evil’. *Testing time is proving time.* It’s when we learn how much we trust in Him. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. Ask yourself, “Where is my trust?”

I. You will experience many tests of your faith in God during your lifetime – “when he was tested.”

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into different trials” (James 1:2). Why would we rejoice? Without tests, you might go through life absent of the joy that comes from faith in God’s promises. Faith in God’s goodness makes the difficult times full of joy, and the joyous times full of meaning. *“The testing of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it is tried with fire, will be found unto praise, honor and glory”* (1 Peter 1:7). To praise means to publicize the excellence of someone, and may be expressed just as well by “to glorify” and “to honor” – God Himself. After every test you will find yourself desiring to publicly extoll the excellence of God.

II. A believer is never responsible to vindicate God’s character in the trial – “he offered up his son.”

We must never forget that God called upon Abraham to sacrifice his son. The practice of human sacrifice was very common among the Canaanites among whom Abraham lived. God is not like the gods of the Canaanites, so one could imagine Abraham thinking or saying, “Lord, what will the Canaanites think of You if I do this?” Have you ever been in a spot in life where you questioned God?

A. There are some tests that make you wonder what God was thinking.

The death of a loved one at a young age; a tragic automobile accident; cancer; the loss of a job; the infidelity of a spouse. The world often seems cruel, and when God does, you’re in a test.

B. During those times when we are perplexed in our trials, we are called to obey.

Understanding of why God called Abraham to slay Isaac was not on the agenda. Abraham’s hope and promise of a future was in Isaac. Saying *‘Here I am Lord’* is more important than *‘Why Lord?’*

III. Every test ultimately brings us to God as our greatest treasure – “he considered that God is able.”

“Do not lay the hand on the boy ...for now I know that you fear God” (Genesis 22:12). The test was over. This fear is not the kind of fear we think of in our Western culture. It is a Hebrew word that carries with it the concept of *worship, reverence* and *value*. God was valued. Only when your true joy and satisfaction in life comes from God, will you really ever live. When you and I are tested, it is an opportunity for us to see what it is we really treasure. Count it all joy when tested. Because ...

“The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord” (Proverbs 1:7).

In closing, it is remarkable to observe that Isaac is a type of Jesus Christ. The Father gave us His Son. The births of Isaac and Christ were both long promised and expected. Both births were beyond the ordinary course of nature and attended with great joy. Both Isaac and Christ were persecuted as boys, Isaac by Ishmael and Christ by Herod. Both were only-begotten and beloved sons. Both were offered on a Mount by their father. Both carried the wood on their backs. Both were offered at the command of God. Both were delivered on the third day, Isaac as from death and Christ really from death. Both returned from where they came, and through them have arisen two great nations. From Isaac comes the nation of Israel and from Christ comes the church, a holy nation unto God.

Christ’s death was planned by the Father, willingly accomplished by the Son who gave us His life, and is applied to our hearts by the Spirit as we exchange with Christ our sins for His righteousness.