

# “Faith: Tested & Triumphant”

“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, <sup>18</sup> even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” <sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.”

- Hebrews 11:17-19

Of all the great illustrations of faith in Hebrews 11, the story of Abraham offering his only son Isaac is the greatest. Trials are tests God gives us. He never tempts us (see James 1:13), but He tests us to make us stronger and more mature.

## Faith is Tested ...

### 1. When the sacrifices demanded seem unreasonable .

“Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

- Genesis 22:2

### 2. When the mysteries of God seem unsolvable .

“Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded 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.”

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### 3. When the promises of God seem unattainable .

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## Faith is Triumphant ...

### 1. When it believes in God's greatness in spite of difficulties .

“On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> 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.”

<sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> 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?”

<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, “God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.”

- Genesis 22:4-8

### 2. When it obeys God's orders in spite of the consequences .

“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. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>12</sup> “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.”

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.”

- Genesis 22:9-14

## Seven lessons God teaches us from this Scripture:

1. The quickest way to end a test from God is to submit to it.
2. God gives me trials according to my maturity and my faith.
3. True faith, both during and after the trial, will be victorious.
4. Obedience is only as strong as my faith.
5. Trials come to me at the right time in my life.
6. Deliverance comes to me at the right time in my life.
7. Trials sent from God are for my spiritual growth.

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