

Faith Tested - cont.

Abraham had an obedience of faith (Romans 1:5; 6:17; 16:26; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 1:13,22; 1 John 5:4). He didn't simply talk about the test, he obeyed.

Abraham had a perfection (completion) of faith (James 2:22). He started with belief and trust and ended with obedience. Works (obedience) made his faith perfect (complete).

Abraham had a fear of faith (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). He respected and revered God so much that he obeyed God in every way.

Finally, Abraham was recognized and rewarded for his faith (Genesis 22:13-19). God blessed him again as he had done before (Gen. 12:3; 18:18).

Abraham had a recognition of faith (Matthew 25:21; 2 Timothy 2:19; Hebrews 6:10). The Lord knows and recognizes all who obey him.

Abraham had a blessing of faith (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Tim. 4:7-8). All today who obey the Lord like Abraham will be blessed.

Friends, we must obey as Abraham obeyed (John 8:39-40). We must walk as he walked (Romans 4:12). How will you be found when your faith is tested and tried by the Lord? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Knowledge of God's word will help you make the right decisions in life.
- If you don't really live by the truth, you don't really love the truth.
- The person who brags about his humility, doesn't have any.
- If you don't practice your religion, you need to get another religion.
- Seek first the kingdom of God.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Faith Tested and Tried

By faith Abraham, being tried, offered up Isaac: yea, he that had gladly received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; even he to whom it was said, In Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God is able to raise up, even from the dead; from whence he did also in a figure receive him back.

- Hebrews 11:17-19 -

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect; and the scripture was fulfilled which saith, And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.

- James 2:21-23 -

In the New Testament, Abraham is held up as an example of faith in God. The high-point in his life of faith comes in Genesis 22 when God tells him to go to mount Moriah and offer up his only begotten son, Isaac, whom he loved. Abraham did what he was told and his faith was reckoned to him (put to his account) by God for righteousness. Afterward, God blessed Abraham once again. What are some lessons that we can learn from a man who's faith was tested and tried.

First, we learn that Abraham allowed himself to be "proved" or tested (Genesis 22:1-2). Abraham did not try to live a life

apart from testing and trials. He did not try to avoid the difficult things that God wanted him to do. From beginning (in Genesis 12) to end (in Genesis 22), God tested and tried Abraham, and Abraham was willing to accept those tests. Abraham showed up for God's test and said, "Here am I."

Abraham had a crucible of faith (James 1:2-4, 12ff; 1 Peter 1:7). He allowed his faith to be put in a crucible of fire, so to speak, to be tested.

Abraham had an action of faith (Hebrews 11:17-19). By faith he "offered" (note the verb of action here) his only begotten son. He did not have "faith only" or belief only. He did not say in his mind, "I accept God as my personal savior." He heard the command of God, and by faith, he obeyed.

Abraham had a priority of faith (Matthew 6:33; 10:37; 22:37). Abraham was told to offer his son as "a burnt offering" which meant that his son would have to die. However, he loved God and his word and he put God and his word first in his life. Abraham loved his son, but his love for his God was greater. He obeyed God and put God first in his life.

Second, we learn that Abraham did not avoid the commandment of God by reasoning with self or others (Genesis 22:3-8). Abraham got up early in the morning and made the three-day journey to Mount Moriah to offer his son there. No excuses. No avoiding or

evading responsibility.

Abraham had an eagerness of faith (Romans 12:11). He got up early and was zealous to do God's will. He did not "drag his feet" in doing what God said.

Abraham had a preparation of faith (Acts 10:33; 2 Tim. 2:21). He made ready and took all he needed to obey God.

Abraham had a preciseness of faith (2 Timothy 1:13; 2 John 9-11). He followed the exact pattern of God's word. He did not alter or change what God wanted him to do.

Abraham had an adoration of faith (Rev. 19:10; 22:9). He loved and adored God so much that he wanted to obey him in every way.

Abraham had a trust of faith (Genesis 17:19; 21:12; Heb. 11:17-19). He trusted that even if Isaac died in the sacrifice that God would raise him from the dead in order to bless the nations through him.

Abraham had an example of faith (1 Timothy 4:12). He is set forth as an example of faithful obedience for all today (Romans 4).

Third, Abraham did not crumble under the crushing weight of such a demand (Genesis 22:9-12). - *continued*