



FaithFull

Week 7 | Abraham and the Test of Faith

October 4, 2026

Reading of the Word

Genesis 22:1-14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and

arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to

his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. ⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and

bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted

up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Genesis 22:1-14 (ESV)

Last week we wandered into the story of Abraham... that Abraham displayed his faith, his loyalty, his allegiance to God...by obeying God. He was able to obey God because he learned that God is the only true foundation in his life! Everything else turns to dust. Only God lasts.

This week will focus on an incident in Abraham's life that the Hebrews writer calls a **test**.

- Both Hebrews 11:17 and Genesis 22 begin by saying that God tested Abraham.

Hebrews 11:17–19 (ESV) **17** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, **18** of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” **19** He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Tests can make us uncomfortable. No one wants to run into a pop quiz because it's fun. What if the only way to ever become a person faithfully allegiant to God is through tests?

There will be a test on this.

- *God tested Abraham.* God will test us.

What is a test? ***A test shows you and grows you.***

- A test tells you plainly where you stand, and challenges you to more.

Some of you have taken tests that were not both sides of that equation.

- Some tests are just to show you what's wrong with you and leave you in despair.
- That's very different from, maybe a coach, who not only gives you a test, but prepares you for the test so that you can get better and grow, regardless of what the test tells you.

In your spiritual life, Satan will test you in the first way, and God will test you in the second way.

- We still don't like them. They fill us with dread. And that's why tests are effective.
- They make you look at yourself in a way that you never would have without the test. They compel you to action you never would have taken without the test.

- **Proverbs 1:7 (NIV84)** *7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

To live a wise life, you need wisdom and discipline. And the path to wisdom and discipline is through testing.

So with God, who wants the best for you, there will be a test!

How will I know it's a test?

Look at Hebrews. ***Abraham's test was to offer up Isaac, and it says of Isaac, that it is through him that Abraham's offspring will be named.***

- It's a command of God that seems to directly contradict a promise of God.
- That's how you'll know that it's a test.
- It's a command that comes with an "even though" kind of thought. *Slay your son even though he's the one who will give you grandchildren.*
- Sidenote: this is also how you know that you even have a God.
- If you never have a God who will cross your will or tell you what you don't want to hear... *sacrifice your son to me...* then you don't have a God. You are being your own God.
- When it seems like obeying God will take me out of the path of blessing, that's the test.
- It also assures me that I really do have faith in Him and not myself.

Why do we need tests?

- In Genesis 22, God comes at Abraham with this: vs 2: *take your son, your only son, and offer him as a burnt offering...*

- Some offerings in the Old Testament are in part, but not the whole.
- But a *whole burnt offering*...was burnt up in its entirety. Saying to God, *I'm giving everything I have to you without anything left over for me.*
- So do you see? God asks Abraham to offer Isaac as that kind of offering.
- God even points out what he's after when he describes Isaac: *Your only son whom you love.* Give him to me wholly.
- A.W. Tozer says that Abraham had become the love slave of his son.
- Sin takes the best things in your life and turns them up too high so that wonderful things get turned into only's. The real enemy often isn't the bad, but the good.
- And God, the tester, comes in and says, *Offer to me that thing that you've made an only.*

Whatever your only is, God is jealous. And any only in this life will be subject to the circumstances of this life. Only if your only is God himself, can you live the kind of life that survives the circumstances.

- God comes in and asks for your only. It's a test. A test designed to demote whatever your only is, and put God back in its place.
- You'll never have a wise disciplined life until God is your only. Everything given to him, without anything left over.

How did Abraham pass his test?

When God came to him with this outlandish command, it says, he *considered*.

- It tells us first that following Jesus isn't a brainless activity. Obedience to God is never thoughtless.
- The word is *logizomai* and it's where we get the term logarithmic. It's a math nerd term. It's an accounting term. We could say this: Abraham calculated.
- Calculated what? He calculated all the ways that God had come through on his word before, so now he could count on God to come through on his word again.

I want to walk you through Abraham's computation here. His considering.

- Promise One: *God said I would have so many children I couldn't count them.*
- Promise Two: *God said I would have all these children through Isaac.*
 - Fact One: *Isaac has no children right now. He's not even married right now!*
 - Fact Two: *God just told me to sacrifice Isaac.*
- Calculation One: *This is God's problem to solve, not mine. God alone will have to make good on his word.*
- Calculation Two: *I don't know how God will do it, but would it be possible that God could raise the dead? Maybe after I slay my son, God will bring him back to life.*

Abraham trusted that God's power was big enough even to bring a dead son to life.

- And on that calculation, Abraham said to his servants at the base of the mountain, (NIV 22:5) *"Stay here with the donkey, the boy and I will go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."*
- When you calculate properly who God is and what he's done, you'll conclude that there's nothing more reasonable than to obey God even though it's looks crazy to do so.

- Abraham thought: *This obedience seems like I'm inviting death. But God, I will go. And surely you can bring out of this a resurrection and a glory that I can't see.*
- Jesus thought the same. *God this obedience you're asking of me seems like I'm inviting death. But God, I will go. I will go knowing that you will bring out of this a resurrection and and glory that is now unseen.*
 - And for eternity, we will praise God that Jesus passed his test.

The first step to FaithFull is to think. Compute who God is and what God has done.

- When you do, you'll find it is unreasonable to disobey God, no matter what he asks.
- You'll find it is reasonable to obey God, even when it looks crazy.

What's your test right now?

- What would a sermon on tests be without a test at the end?
- Do one test below for the month.
 - a. Read one Psalm or Proverb before your phone. (Every day)
 - b. Pray before you open email. (Every time)
 - c. Get to church early. (The whole month)
 - d. Fast one lunch each week.
 - e. Read the Gospel of John. (Over the month)
 - f. Write down three answered prayers. (By the end of the month)
 - g. Every week text someone that you prayed for them.
 - h. Every day sit ten minutes in silence.
 - i. Serve at church one time. (Sometime in the month)
 - j. Give quietly to someone in need. (Sometime in the month)
 - k. Lead the prayer for your family at mealtime. (The whole month)
 - l. Say out loud the good that you're thinking of someone. (All the time)

Whatever this test is, here's how to pass it: **Calculate. Consider.**

- God never asks if we will like the test. He just gives it.
- What he does ask, is that we remember what he has already done, and that we do the next thing, even though.
- *Even though, God, I will obey.* That is allegiance. That is FaithFull.

*God help us pass the test. Let your testing in our lives gives us a clear picture of where we are, and where we need to be. Going when you say go is never the foolish thing to do, but always the wise. What looks like death, with you involved, is always resurrection. In the name of our Savior who passed the test and offered his life when our own was required, in the name of the Lamb caught for us, Jesus, we pray,
Amen.*

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