

A Journey of Faith (Part 12)
A Study of the Life of Abraham
(Gen. 22)

“The Best Remedy for Relieving Faith Pressure”

Introduction: *Our Spiritual growth depends on how we handle the tests and trials that come our way in life.* Both, the tests and trials that come into our lives can put great pressure on our faith.

1. Trials in our lives purify and strengthen us in our faith and Christian life.

2. Temptations come to entice, corrupt, and weaken us.

As believers, we’re going to face both temptations and trials of different kinds and sizes and on various occasions in our lives.

Abraham has been walking with God around 40 years now through all sorts of trouble and difficulties.

But, in our text today, we see Abraham face one of the greatest tests of his life. Through this test, Abraham shows us, the remedy for faith pressure is *in our understanding of the importance of faith, and obedience to God and His word.* But also, as Abraham faces the greatest trial of his life, he shows us *“Understanding is more than knowing what to do; it’s doing what you know.”*

I. NOTICE GOD’S REQUEST: (v. 1,2)

Right away we see two things for the readers benefit. (first...)

A. We see God initiates this test –

1. It was not from Satan – Though God does indeed uses Satan to achieve His purposes sometimes: (Mk.4:15; 2 Cor. 4:4; Jb. 1:8-2:10; Lk.22:31,32; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Cor. 12:7-10)

2. It was not from Abraham’s own impulse

B. We see God’s intention behind the test – (Js. 1:12-15)

1. A request that was a command from God

a. It was a command that created an emotional conflict – (Prov.23:26)

b. It was a command that created a spiritual conflict – While all believers face the same temptations (1 Cor. 10;13) Not all believer’s face the same trials.

Often the trials God sends to us don’t make sense, but they all have purpose – (1 Pe. 1:6-9; Js.1:1-4; 2 Cor. 12;7-10)

II. NOTICE ABRAHAM’S RESPONSE: (v.3-6)

A. Abraham’s response was immediate – (v.3)

1. Often times we know God has called us to a difficult task –

2. When God asks something difficult of us; if we delay, that only makes matters worse!

3. Abraham makes all the preparations for the task God has called him to.

B. Abraham’s response was obedient - Ultimately this was a test of obedience –

1. Abraham’s obedience shows a reflection of his relationship with God –

2. Abraham’s obedience shows he was trusting God and leaning not on his own understanding (vv.4, 5)

3. Abraham was trusting what he knew about God – (Heb 11:19)

III. NOTICE GOD’S REASONING: (v.7-14)

(God gives two reasons He had for this test for Abraham.)

A. This was a test of Abraham’s faith –

a. God was taking Abraham to a specific place;

b. Obedience begins with one step at a time, obeying God in the small things until the larger challenges come along.

B. This was a test of Abraham’s fear – (vv. 9-12)

1. Abraham obeyed without hesitation

2. Abraham’s fear of God was displayed in his total Submission to God’s sovereign will!

a. The Lord provided a ram and reiterated His promises and blessings to Abraham.

b. Because Abraham believed and obeyed God, he passed the test of his faith.