

THE TRIAL OF FAITH

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Where there is true faith in God, that faith will always be tried and tested. Apostle Peter pointed out that in this life, we will inevitably face trials because our faith in Christ is tested and refined just like gold that is heated in furnace. He underscored the value of faith and the ultimate reward for remaining steadfast in Christ (1 Peter 1:6-7).

God tested Abraham's faith in the most agonizing way. He commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering (Gen 22:1-2).

Three (3) Aspects of the Trial of Faith

1. **A Loving Father**. a) God gave Abraham a prophecy that a child would be born to him and Sarah as the fulfilment of God's promise to make him father of many nations (Genesis 17:18-19); b) with the birth of Isaac, that promise was reiterated (Genesis 21:12), however, his long-awaited son was meant to be sacrificed; c) God acknowledged Abraham's obedience since he did not withhold the son that he loved.
2. **A Living Faith**. Abraham's obedience was complete. He demonstrated an unimaginable, living faith which a human mind could not comprehend. He knew in his heart, that God would fulfil His promises. When Abraham was about to lay his hand on Isaac, God intervened and stopped him. He had proven that his love for God was greater than his love for his son. Today, God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear and will provide a way out so that we can endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).
3. **The Rewards of a Living Faith**. True and perfect faith is always rewarded by God. God provided a substitute sacrifice – a ram caught by its horns in the thicket (Genesis 22:11-13). God's provisions are always available along the road of faithful obedience. Abraham's faith and obedience became the pathway to the promised blessings (Genesis 22:17-18).

Three (3) Features of Abraham's Faith

1. Isaac reflects the portrait of Jesus.
 - 1.1. Isaac submitted to his father's will. He willingly surrendered to the appointed task. Jesus did the will of His Father to die on the cross (Jn4:34).
 - 1.2. Isaac carried the wood. Jesus carried His wood, the cross (Jn 19:17)..
 - 1.3. Isaac was dead for 3 days during the 3 days that they went to the mountain (Heb. 11: 17-19). Jesus lay in the tomb for 3 days.
 - 1.4. Isaac rose from the dead as God stopped Abraham. Jesus also rose from the dead (1 Cor 15:1-23)
2. **The Peace in Abraham**. despite the severe test, Abraham was at peace because he knew God would intervene in an unprecedented way and would be true to His promises.
3. **The Provision of God**. Because Abraham passed the test of faith, his needs were met and provided for by God.

Conclusion:

Just as our everyday life involves testing or trial, so does our relationship with God. We need to pass the test of faith and consequently have victory in our walk with Him. Jesus assures salvation. God has magnificent plans for those who trust Him.

Reflection:

What are your "Isaacs" (money, fame, success, vices) that you are unwilling to sacrifice for God?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we need You to strengthen our faith especially in moments when it is severely tried. Help us to remember that You are in complete control so that even when we do not understand or see a way out, we know that You are with us. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.

SCRIBES MINISTRY: Transcribed by: Helen Angeles-Del Mundo

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