How STRONG is our FAITH?

Genesis 22

Introduction

The testing of our faith:
• Most people don’t like tests.
• Tests are not convenient.
• Tests are a normal part of life.
• The question is how do we handle them?

I. Our faith will be tested.
Genesis 22:1-2

God tested Abraham.
Take...Go...Sacrifice...

Why is God testing him?
• God tests us to know what is in our heart. “God led you all the way in the desert these 40 years to humble you and to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.” Deuteronomy 8:2
• God tests us to prove the genuineness of our faith. “So that it may be proved genuine and result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:6-7

There are three things we can know.

There is more to the story than Abraham knew.
• The language God uses to describe Isaac is the language he would use to describe his Son Jesus – his only Son, his beloved Son.
• The place they were going to was Moriah – to the mountain God would show him. Mount Moriah is where the temple would be built (II Chronicles 3:1) and where Jesus would be crucified.
II. Some of God’s tests are hard. 
Genesis 22:3-11

This was the most difficult test of Abraham’s life.
When they come to Moriah we get the first hint at what Abraham was thinking.

“We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.” Hebrews 11:17-19

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Abraham didn’t know how God would do it, but he believed he would.
It is hard to “sacrifice our Isacs” – to give to God the things we hold dearest.
It is at these times that we must trust in the ultimate goodness of God.

III. God rewards those who trust him. 
Genesis 22:12-19

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket.
He called that place “Jehovah Jireh” the Lord will provide.
God repeated his promise to Abraham of:

- A people – as numerous as the stars.
- A land – the cities of your enemies.
- A blessing – through your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Two thousand years later, God would do what he asked Abraham to do.

Where is the lamb? God himself would provide the lamb.

“Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
John 1:29

Abraham was rewarded for his faith and obedience. The two go hand in hand.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
Hebrews 11:6

Conclusion

How strong is our faith? Can it stand the test?

Will we trust God even when we don’t understand what he may be doing in our life?

Will we grow in faith and obedience?