

The Purpose of Difficult Trials

Walking in Obedience and Faith
Genesis 22:1-14



Genesis 22

¹ Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.



Genesis 22

⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. **We will worship and then we will come back to you.**” ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.



Genesis 22

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”



Genesis 22

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”**



The Purpose of Difficult Trials

Walking in Obedience and Faith
Genesis 22:1-14



Trials vs Temptation





Trials vs Temptation

A Temptation has the purpose of enticing us to sin, to pollute us and **weaken us.**



Trials vs Temptation

A Temptation has the purpose of enticing us to sin, to pollute us and **weaken us**.

A Trial has the purpose of purifying and sanctifying us. To **strengthen our faith**.

Trials vs Temptation





Trials vs Temptation

- [1 Peter 1:6-7](#): "6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."



Road Map

The Purpose of Difficult Trials(Genesis 22:1-14)

Background: The Life Of Abraham

1. Abraham's **Obedience** (v 1-5)

2. Abraham's **Faith** (v 6-9)

3. God **Provides** (v 10-19)



Background: The Life of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 → The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.² **“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.**³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**”¹

At age 75, Abraham received a promise and call from God. In excitement and hope, He left everything.



Background: The Life of Abraham

First he probably thought everything will be peaceful and joyful... HOWEVER THINGS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY THAN HE EXPECTED:



Background: The Life of Abraham

First he probably thought everything will be peaceful and joyful... HOWEVER THINGS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY THAN HE EXPECTED:

- **Lied** that his wife Sarah was his sister (Gen. 12)



Background: The Life of Abraham

First he probably thought everything will be peaceful and joyful... HOWEVER THINGS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY THAN HE EXPECTED:

- **Lied** that his wife Sarah was his sister (Gen. 12)
- God told Abraham he was going to have his son (Gen. 15), but **slept with Hagar** and had Ishmael. (Gen. 16)



Background: The Life of Abraham

First he probably thought everything will be peaceful and joyful... HOWEVER THINGS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY THAN HE EXPECTED:

- **Lied** that his wife Sarah was his sister (Gen. 12)
- God told Abraham he was going to have his son (Gen. 15), but **slept with Hagar** and had Ishmael. (Gen. 16)
- **Witnessed** the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 19)

)



Background: The Life of Abraham

First he probably thought everything will be peaceful and joyful... HOWEVER THINGS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY THAN HE EXPECTED:

- **Lied** that his wife Sarah was his sister (Gen. 12)
- God told Abraham he was going to have his son (Gen. 15), but **slept with Hagar** and had Ishmael. (Gen. 16)
- **Witnessed** the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 19)
- **Lied AGAIN** that Sarah was his sister (Gen. 20)



Background: The Life of Abraham

First he probably thought everything will be peaceful and joyful... HOWEVER THINGS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY THAN HE EXPECTED:

- **Lied** that his wife Sarah was his sister (Gen. 12)
- God told Abraham he was going to have his son (Gen. 15), but **slept with Hagar** and had Ishmael. (Gen. 16)
- **Witnessed** the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 19)
- **Lied AGAIN** that Sarah was his sister (Gen. 20)
- After 25 years of promise, **Birth of Isaac.** (Gen. 21)



Background: The Life of Abraham

God's Timing is Perfect.



Background: The Life of Abraham

God's Timing is Perfect.

We often make mistakes that will cause us to fall and fail but we will **BECOME MORE MATURE IN OUR FAITH AS TIME PASSES!!**



I. Abraham's Obedience

“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.”



I. Abraham's Obedience

“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.”

ABRAHAM **IMMEDIATELY OBEYED** with no hesitation or Questions.

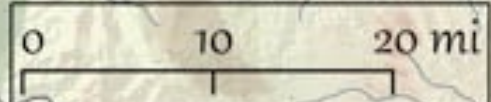
“Delayed Obedience is **DISOBEDIENCE.**”

Abraham offers Isaac

Gilead



Genesis 21:32-22:3





I. Abraham's Obedience

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."



I. Abraham's Obedience

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Abraham's eyes were **FOCUSED** on God and where he would need to be.



I. Abraham's Obedience

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham's eyes were **FOCUSED** on God and where he would need to be.

There were many challenges... but we need to walk with **PERSEVERANCE AND DISCIPLINE** to stay faithful.



I. Abraham's Obedience

Hebrews 12:2 → ² Let us **fix our eyes** on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" **"God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."** ⁸ Abraham answered and the two of them went on together.

Isaac is one of Abraham's **most precious possessions on earth.**



Questions to Ask Yourself:

What is one thing you value the most in this life? What do you treasure?

And If God asks you, **would you be willing to give this to Him?**



Questions to Ask Yourself:

What is one thing you value the most in this life? What do you treasure?

And If God asks you, **would you be willing to give this to Him?**

- **THE DEEPER THE AFFECTION for this object, the harder it is to give.**



Mall Shopping Park
LaLaport
SHANGHAI JINGJIAO

会员焕新升级 欢迎加入乐享荟

P 停车优惠及
缴费说明

NIKE
AIR

麻



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham's Words reveals his Faith:

Genesis 22:5 → ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. **We will worship** and then **we will come back** to you."

Genesis 22:8 → "God himself will provide the **lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**"

⁸ Abraham answered and the two of them went on together.



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham's faith was not a blind faith. It is **a faith built on spending time with God.**

Hebrews 11:17-19 → ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ **Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead,** and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham knew God's character and promises for Him.



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham knew God's character and promises for Him.

2 More Questions:



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham knew God's character and promises for Him.

2 More Questions:

- 1. How well do you know God's character?** How confident are you in your relationship with God?



II. Abraham's Faith

Abraham knew God's character and promises for Him.

2 More Questions:

- 1. How well do you know God's character?** How confident are you in your relationship with God?
- 2. We must know God through the daily discipline of Scripture**



Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one **who will save**; he will rejoice over you with gladness; **he will quiet you by his love**; he will exult over you with loud singing.



III. God Provides

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, **"Abraham! Abraham!"**
"Here I am," he replied.



III. God Provides

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. **He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.** ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”



III. God Provides

Five ways God Provides:

1. God provides for our **physical needs** (Matthew 6:31-33)
2. God **answers our prayers** (1 John 5:14-15)
3. God provides hidden things that **we do not even know we need** (Ephesians 3:20)
4. God **equips us Spiritually** (Ephesians 6:10-12)
5. God provides **His constant Presence** (1 Peter 5:6-7)



III. God Provides

God Provides His Covenant (Salvation and Glory with Him)

*¹⁷ "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as **the sand on the seashore**. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring **all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."***



III. God Provides

God Provides His Covenant (Salvation and Glory with Him)

*¹⁷ "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as **the sand on the seashore**. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring **all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.**"*

GOD always provides **the BEST OF THE BEST FOR US.**



III. God Provides

God Provides His Covenant (Salvation and Glory with Him)

We must believe that when God asks you to give something to you, its not to steal away what you value the most... BUT TO **GIVE YOU MORE VALUABLE THINGS THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE**



Jesus Death is God's Provision of Sonship

If Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, **the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.** ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you...

Romans 8:10-11, 14-17



Jesus Death is God's Provision of Sonship

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. **And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”** ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit **that we are God's children.** ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,** if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:10-11, 14-17



Conclusion





Conclusion

1. We need to **Submit** ourselves to **His Control**.
2. Place your **Focus on Him** and not the **Situation**
“THE LORD WILL PROVIDE” → JEHOVAH JIRAH
3. Be **Disciplined in Seeking God!** Through Scripture, GOD HAS ALREADY PREPARED WHATS BEST FOR US!