

Commitment on Trial

Genesis 22:4-18

Genesis 22:4-18 (NASB)

⁴“On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

⁵ Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”

⁶ 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, the two of them walked on together.

⁷ Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So, the two of them walked on together.

⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

¹² He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

¹³ Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.”

¹⁵ Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

¹⁶ and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.”

¹⁸ “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Abraham began walking with the Lord many years before he was asked to offer Isaac on the altar. His first step had been to leave his home and relatives and go to a land God pledged to show him. But now he was being told to give up the person he cherished most. Isaac was the son of promise, the one through whom God would bring forth a great nation and bless the entire world. Offering Isaac up was the biggest challenge Abraham had ever faced, yet he obeyed.

The Lord never allows us to rest on a spiritual plateau. That's why He at times tests our commitment. These stretching opportunities are an expression of His love because He knows that standing still is not what's best for us. The testing is designed to help us grow in faith, obedience, and spiritual maturity while increasing our dedication. That is the way we become valuable servants in His kingdom.

Abraham's obedience to this crucial test was determined by his understanding of God. He believed that the Lord would keep His promise to give him descendants through Isaac, even if it required raising the boy from the dead ([Heb. 11:17-19](#)).

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷ **“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;**

¹⁸ ***it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."***

¹⁹ **He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type”.**

That's why Abraham confidently declared to his servants, **“We will worship and return to you”** ([Genesis 22:5](#)). He knew the Lord was faithful.

If you're going through a time of testing, God is seeking to raise your commitment to a new level. He wants to prove to you that He's faithful to His promises and will greatly bless you for your obedience. The stretching may be painful, but He will wrap you in His love and carry you to victory.