



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

22 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.”(Genesis 22:1-2)

This passage comes from the origin story of the nation of Israel. Abraham is portrayed as the “father” of the forthcoming nation, but he and his wife, Sarah, go many years without having a child. When they finally have a son, they name him Isaac.

Isaac is beloved and cherished by his parents; he is their only son and their “pride and joy.” So, when the story says that God tells Abraham that he is to take Isaac to the top of Mount Moriah and sacrifice him there, it must have been extremely disturbing. It is, even for us, as we read it.

Scholars debate what Abraham actually was told by God, what he thought God wanted him to do, and what the author of the passage is trying to tell us. One thing that is extremely interesting is how the narrator tells us in the opening line that “God tested (nasah) Abraham.” Nasah refers to giving a test to determine where there is need for maturation (not a test to see if you pass or fail). Thus, at the very least, I think we can say that the story is intended to point us to a God who wants what is best for us and is working on developing us into more faith-filled followers who walk with God and experience God’s best.

What is holding you back from God’s best for your life? Will you test your faith in this area?

PRACTICE:
Evaluate what is
interfering in your faith
and test it.

