



“By faith the people crossed the sea” - Hebrews 11:29

**S**cripture: Read Hebrews 11:17-19, Genesis 22:1-19

- Hebrews 11:17 begins, “By faith Abraham, when he was tested ...” What does Scripture say of being tested? James 1:2-3, 1 Peter 1:6-9, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

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- In Gen. 22:12, God acknowledges Abraham’s obedience and says, “Now I know you fear God.” In the Hebrew, ‘Fear God’, implies that one values God as *GOD!* Read: Job 28:28, Deuteronomy 10:12 & 20, Psalm 130:4, Ecclesiastes 12:13.

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- Abraham was obedient, even unto the death of his son, knowing God would provide according to his will. What do we read of the ultimate obedience and submission to God? Psalm 40:7-8, Matthew 26:39, John 6:38, Philippians 2:7-8.

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## **E**quipping

- When God called to Abraham in Genesis 22:1, Abraham answered, “Here I am.” He did this twice, again in verse 11. This reply was not intended to alert God to his location or presence, but to his readiness to obey. What is our response to a call to obey, serve, share, love? How do we learn to respond like Abraham?

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- Notice how calm and confident Abraham appears to be in his speech to his men, “We will worship and then we will come back to you” (Gen. 22:5). Again, in response to Isaac, “My son, God will provide” (Gen. 22:8). Abraham’s faith was one of great hope in God’s provision and protection. He was ‘settled’ in his obedience. Are we? Do you find peace when being tested, as a result of your faith in God’s provision and protection? Thoughts.

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- If we consider that Satan tempts us to bring out our worst, yet God tests us to bring out our best (keeping in mind the promise not to be tested beyond what we can endure - 1 Cor. 10:13), does this change our perspective to temptations and trials? Are there practical approaches we can take to “bring out our best?”

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## *A*pplication

- Reflecting on the faith of Abraham, particularly against the setting of Genesis 22 and Isaac, is there anything you want to address in your own faith life? Are there opportunities to consider the response, “Here I am?” How could you go about experiencing growth in these areas this week?

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*Lord, may we stand before you ready to obey. May we, with Abraham-like faith, seek to worship you through our trials, and may we do so with the confidence that you are the great provider and protector. As Jesus is our model of obedience, may we know that all things work to your glory and honor and good, for those who know, fear, and love you.*

*Amen.*