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## The Trying Of Your Faith

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Jesus tells us to be of good cheer, because He has overcome the world. Casting all our cares, worries and stress whatever they may be gives us the opportunity to realize that through Him we have victory in all areas of our lives. There are seasons that come, a trying and proving of our faith which will reveal our faith. Temptations are not necessarily an enticement to do sin, but are pressures or every kind of aggravations that come our way. What is our response to the aggravations?

1 Peter 1:6-7 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold \*temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" KJV

1 Peter 1:6-7 "I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory." MESSAGE

\* temptations a type of test or proved

An example is given of welders who when they finish welding a piece of pipe or whatever material that is being used, a pressure will be put on the pipe and it will reveal if there are any flaws in that pipe, either in the actual weld or in the pipe, it is done with x-ray and will show any type of hole or imperfection that needs to be corrected. The pressure didn't cause the imperfection in the pipe, the pressure only revealed it, it was already there.

This is what pressure does to the believer and is part of our proving to see if our faith is genuine, that our faith will be pure, having no impurities, but in reality it will be challenging to grow in faith and develop without learning to endure pressure and adversity, it is a test to our faith. When some of these tests come, it is a way to reveal flaws that may be in our character or in us that needs to be worked on. Gods

purpose for testing us is to prove what is in our hearts and what our later end will be like receiving blessings from God.

Any flaw in the welders pipe can be fixed in a short period of time but Jesus can fix any flaw or imperfection that shows up if we are willing to yield to Him, if we desire to be whole. Many times when these challenges or pressures come, their purpose for coming is to try to get us to just quit and cast away our confidence.

The following is the story of God testing or proving Abraham and his faith in what God had told Abraham and his wife Sarah many years earlier in regards to having a son in their old age from which generations of people would come from. Was Abraham believing that God would be faithful to what had been promised years ago? Or was there something else to be done in this test? God doesn't give a promise one time only but it has to be repeated many times in order for the person receiving the promise to actually believe what has been told them. Gods test for Abraham was to see if he really believed or heard what had been told him. God had given Abraham a son, God told him he was to sacrifice the son, and Abraham never questioned him, he showed complete obedience in what he was told to do. Abraham had learned obedience by the things that he had suffered during his life with other people who had been in his life, they had caused all kinds of problems for him, but he continued to be obedient to what God had said to him.

Gen 22:1-13 "And it came to pass after these things, that God did \*tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the Lord

called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son." KJV

\*tempt means to prove or test - God does not tempt

Heb 5:8 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;" KJV

Jesus had learned total obedience in His earlier life and was ready for the things He would suffer for us. Obedience will come out of testing. The willing and obedient will eat the good of the land. In testing and proving, obedience will come to us.

Isa 46:10 "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" KJV

God is declaring the end from the beginning and that is what we see with the passage recorded from Abrahams life in Genesis 22. Framing his world by the words of his mouth, faith filled words.

Rom 4:17-18 "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations.) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be." KJV

This is the promise that Abraham had received regarding the birth of Isaac, his faith was based on what God had spoken to him, the promise would come through Isaac. Isaac had no indication that he was to be the offering, but he was obedient to his father Abraham and helped prepare the site for the offering to be made.

Heb 11:17-19 "By faith Abraham, when he was \*tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." KJV

\*tried, tested or proved his faith

Faith always has a voice and perceives as a real fact what is not revealed to our senses. Abraham spoke what the outcome would be regarding Isaac his only begotten son, God was able to raise him up. Because of the faithfulness of Abraham,

God was bound to the covenant that He had made with Abraham and then God offered up His only begotten son Jesus for us.

Abraham had great faith, he knew that God could not lie and he kept saying that God would provide the sacrifice. The faith that Abraham had was tremendous, he had not had that kind of faith in the beginning but through a series of 24 years Abraham developed this kind of faith, the flaws in his life were taken care of and he began to be made whole, he lied, he had family problems and other things to overcome.

The flaws in our lives will put the promises of God on hold, this is what the test or proving is all about. Will we keep the word of God and find out what is in our hearts? Partial obedience is a flaw and has to be dealt with.

The following scripture showed a way of proving or testing the children of Israel while they were in the wilderness, knowing what was in their hearts and if they would be obedient to keeping His commandments.

Deut 8:2,16 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;"KJV

Psa 31:19 "Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!" KJV

The following verses tell us how we can access by faith what has been laid up for the believers. God is looking for ways to bless us, however, there will be times of tribulations that we will have to work through, rejoicing and being hopeful because of the love of God which is in our hearts. Pressure reveals flaws in us, will we yield to pressure or will we stand firm? (refer to 1 Peter 1:6-7 quoted earlier)

Rom 5:2-5 "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." KJV

Rom 5:2-5 "Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in

our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God. 3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy *now!*] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. 4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation. 5 Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us." AMP

Rom 5:2-5 "By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise. 3-5 There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate **patience** in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!" MESSAGE

We find out that God has been waiting for us to respond to Him. We don't murmur and complain if there is a flaw in us, but we continue to praise Him and the pressure will only be for a season and will pass, if we acknowledge what God is wanting to do in our life. Patience means that we do not quit, having endurance, a quality that does not surrender to circumstances, does not yield to despondency and always is associated with hope. Trouble and pressure does not destroy us as we are learning to praise even when it seems like nothing is working. God is faithful and will generously pour into our lives.