

FAITH

that makes an impact



A wooden mortar filled with yellow and grey lentils, with some lentils spilled on a white surface. The text "The Testing of our Faith" is overlaid in a black box with white text.

The Testing of our Faith

1. By giving us a choice

Genesis 2:16-17 **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

2. By requiring us to sacrifice something

Genesis 22:1-19 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

2. By requiring us to sacrifice something

Genesis 22:1-19 ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?"

2. By requiring us to sacrifice something

Genesis 22:1-19 ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And 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!" So he said, "Here I am."

2. By requiring us to sacrifice something

Genesis 22:1-19 **12** And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything 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 lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** And Abraham called the name of the place, ^[c]The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

2. By requiring us to sacrifice something

Genesis 22:1-19 ¹⁵ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants 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." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

3. By his manifested presence

Exodus 20:18-21 **18** Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. **19** Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." **20** And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." **21** So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God *was*.

4. By wilderness experience

Deuteronomy 8:2 ² And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

5. By other people's opinions of us

Proverbs 27:21 ²¹ The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, And a man *is valued* by what others say of him.

6. By allowing the enemy to tempt us

Judges 2:21-3:4 **21** I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, **22** so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept *them*, or not." **23** Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

6. By allowing the enemy to tempt us

Judges 2:21-3:4 Now these *are* the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, *that is*, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan ² (*this was* only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), ³ *namely*, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.

6. By allowing the enemy to tempt us

Judges 2:21-3:4 ⁴ And they were *left, that He might* test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

7. By persecution

1 Peter 4:12-19 **12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. **14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

7. By persecution

1 Peter 4:12-19 **16** Yet if *anyone* suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. **17** For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" **19** Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

8. By fire

1 Peter 1:6-7 ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Proverbs 17:3 ³ The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests the hearts.

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