



FAMILY
CHURCH

FAITH ON THE
mountain



Faith on the Mountain

Trusting God Through the Test

Introduction: Faith and Doubt

Faith is never formed in comfort. It is forged in the tension between what God promises and what our eyes can see. The Bible is filled with stories of men and women who walked through seasons of uncertainty, holding on to God’s Word when everything around them told them to let go.

Abraham’s journey is perhaps the clearest example. Called out of a pagan family, sent to a land he did not know, and promised descendants though he had no son, Abraham became the father of faith—not because he never doubted, but because his doubts drove him deeper into trust.

In Genesis 22, we encounter one of the most unusual, even disturbing, stories in all of Scripture. God asks Abraham to take his only son Isaac—the miracle child—and offer him as a sacrifice. It is here that we learn one of the deepest truths of faith: real trust in God often requires walking into the unknown, believing He will provide even when everything looks impossible.

The Story Retold: Abraham and Isaac

Abraham was over one hundred years old when Isaac, the son of promise, was finally born. For decades, Abraham had heard God’s voice say, “*Your descendants will outnumber the stars.*” Yet year after year, Sarah’s womb remained empty. Until one day, when the impossible happened—a ninety-year-old woman gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

Now, after years of waiting, Abraham held in his arms the very promise of God. Isaac was not just his son; he was the fulfillment of everything God had ever said.

And then came Genesis 22.

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God said: *“Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”*

The command makes no sense. Why would a God of love demand this? Why would He ask Abraham to give up the very gift He Himself had provided?

But the text tells us something remarkable: *“Early the next morning, Abraham got up, saddled his donkey, and took his son.”*

There was no delay. No bargaining. No excuses. Abraham simply obeyed.

For three days, they walked toward the mountain. For three days, Isaac was as good as dead in Abraham’s heart. On the third day, Abraham saw the mountain. He turned to his servants and said words of faith that echo through the centuries:

“The boy and I will go over there and worship, and then we will come back to you.”

Even as he faced the command of God, Abraham believed the promise of God—that through Isaac, a great nation would rise. If Isaac had to die, then Abraham reasoned that God must raise him from the dead.

On the mountain, Isaac carried the wood. Abraham carried the fire and the knife. When Isaac asked, *“Father, where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”* Abraham answered with prophetic faith: *“God Himself will provide the lamb.”*

Abraham built the altar, arranged the wood, and bound Isaac upon it. As he raised the knife, the voice of the angel broke through:

“Abraham, Abraham! Do not lay a hand on the boy. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son.”

At that moment, Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket. God had provided a substitute. Isaac’s life was spared. And

Abraham named that place *Jehovah Jireh*—“The Lord Will Provide.”

Why This Story Matters

At first glance, this story feels unsettling. Why would God test Abraham in such a way? Three truths help us understand:

1. **Isaac was never in danger.** God knew the outcome from the beginning. He had already prepared the ram.
2. **Abraham had been prepared.** Decades of faith-building moments—leaving home, receiving promises, witnessing miracles—had trained Abraham’s heart for this ultimate test.
3. **God’s ways are higher than ours.** We may never fully understand His methods, but we can always trust His character.

This was not about God desiring human sacrifice. It was about Abraham’s heart. It was about whether he trusted the Giver more than the gift.

The Foreshadowing of Christ

Genesis 22 is more than a test of Abraham. It is a preview of the Gospel.

- *“Take your son, your only son, whom you love.”* – echoes John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son.”*
- Isaac carried the wood up the mountain; Jesus carried the cross up Calvary.
- Isaac was bound willingly; Jesus surrendered willingly.
- A ram became the substitute for Isaac; Jesus became our substitute on the cross.

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- Isaac was as good as dead for three days before being restored; Jesus was dead three days before rising again.
- The mountain was Moriah—the very place where, centuries later, Jesus would be crucified.

This is not just Abraham’s story. This is the Gospel in advance. Genesis 22 is God whispering: *“One day, I will provide My Son as the sacrifice. One day, I will do for the world what I spared Abraham from doing.”*

Living This Out Today

Abraham’s story forces us to ask: what do we love more than God? What gifts are we holding tighter than the Giver? Faith is not just believing in God’s promises; it is trusting Him enough to lay everything on the altar.

Here are four lessons from Abraham’s faith:

1. **God allows tests to grow our faith.** Trials refine us, not destroy us.
 2. **Immediate obedience matters.** Delay creates space for doubt.
 3. **Provision is found on the mountain.** God provides at the place of obedience, not before.
 4. **Blessing follows obedience.** Because Abraham obeyed, all nations were blessed through his descendant—Jesus Christ.
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A Prayer for Faith

God, help me to trust You when I don’t understand. Help me to obey quickly, without delay. Grow my faith, even through trials, so I may see Your provision on the mountain. Thank You for giving Your Son, the true Lamb, so that I might live. Amen.

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