



“Just Take Your Next Step”

Genesis 22:1-19

Following God will include times when He leads you through difficult testing. *Genesis 22:1-2*

- God asks Abraham to sacrifice his beloved and only son as a burnt offering.
- God isn't a recreational cruise ship director who exists solely to make sure we are happy.
- We simply won't grow spiritually without God's intense testing processes. *James 1:2-4*

Abraham responded with a faith that was validated by his steps of obedience. *Genesis 22:3-8*

- Learn from Abraham who didn't hesitate to take that first difficult step of obedience.
- Abraham believed a resurrection possible in spite of an absence of evidence. *Heb. 11:17-19*
- Faith takes the next step and presses on, no matter the difficulties and uncertainties.

Abraham's tough steps of obedience rested on what he knew was true about God. *Gen. 22:9-14*

- God pushed Abraham to the brink, and a man who deeply revered Him emerged.
- When father and son put everything on the altar, God provided a grace-filled substitute.
- *"Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide."* *Gen. 22:14; 2 Chron. 3:1*

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Why do you think it sometimes takes severe testing from God for Christians to grow?
2. Further study on Trials and Testing: (*Deut. 8:1-7; Judges 3:1-4; Psalm 66:8-12; John 16:31-33; Romans 5:1-5; Hebrews 11:17-19; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 4:12-19; 2 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 2:8-11*)
3. Prayerfully apply the above truth to a test God is currently taking you through.
4. Read *Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-26*. Explain how authentic faith is validated by obedience. Is there an area of life that requires your next hard step of obedience?
5. Abraham kept taking steps of obedience because of what he believed true about God. (*Gen. 22:8, 14*) Do you believe God will provide as you take sacrificial steps of obedience?
6. Read *1 Cor. 6:19,20*. God owns everything about you. Have you put everything on the table for His use? Have you been faithful in the giving of tithes and offerings?
7. Prayer time: Be still before God and ask Him to expose areas of your life that you have failed to place on His altar as an act of worship to Him. Say yes to His promptings!

“God will provide... He cares about the details of your life.”