



THE GREATEST TEST PART 4 - GREAT FAITH

In part 4 of The Greatest Test, we are going to look at what it is to have 'Great Faith'. Abraham was the father of faith, but Abraham over time had formed within him Great Faith. What is Great Faith?

Great Faith is a faith that sees and knows a reality that already exists, before it is manifested in the natural. In verse 4 we see the reality of natural sight, contrasted against the reality of spiritual sight found in verse 5.

Genesis 22: 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

Genesis 22:5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."

As we discussed in Part 2 - Whom Do You Love? God has instructed Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son as a burnt offering. Abraham knows the sacrifice of Isaac's life is what it means to worship the Lord, which makes his prophetic declaration at the end of the verse so incredibly powerful.

"...and we will worship and return to you."

Because of his Great Faith, Abraham knows this will not be the end of his son. He knows that he and Isaac will return, and he prophesies this fact. Before he even arrives at the place he saw from a distance, he proclaims words of spirit and life in absolute alignment to God's spiritual kingdom.

We see Abraham's Great Faith exercised in verse 8, within the context of verses 6 and 7, when Isaac asks his father a powerful question.

"...where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"



THE GREATEST TEST

Isaac is the one carrying the wood for which they will make a fire for the sacrifice and yet he has no idea God has instructed his father Abraham to offer him up as a burnt offering.

Isaac goes with his father trusting in his father 100% and this is something we all need to do, when we don't have this Great Faith that Abraham carried.

Abraham's Great Faith is evidenced in his response to his son's question.

Genesis 22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

The synergies between this and the sacrifice of the Lamb of God are mind blowing. We know that in the future God the Father would provide His one and only Son, Jesus Christ as the One who would redeem the world of their iniquity and sin, and we see here Abraham knowing the Father will provide a lamb for this offering.

It is Abraham's love for God and his Great Faith in God, which empowers his obedience to the Lord's instructions regarding Isaac.

Abraham had the kind of faith that the Scriptures speak of. Abraham had the assurance of what he hoped for and the conviction within him of things unseen.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

This is the kind of faith that trumps our need to trust, because it sees what already is.

This is why faith and trust are not the same thing. Trust is what you need when you don't have faith to see what already is. When we can see what already exists in God, we lay hold of it and live in accordance to it. We live from faith not towards it.

We are called to live a life of faith in Jesus Christ. It doesn't say we are called to live a life of trust in Jesus Christ.



Please hear me. I am not saying, we are not to trust in Jesus, of course we are. I am saying that it is possible, and should be the goal, for every follower to come into and live from the same kind of Great Faith that Abraham had. While this Great Faith is being formed in us, through the hearing of His Word, we are to trust in what He says and live in accordance to it.

Great faith knows that God always provides for what He calls us into or what He calls us to do. Abraham knowing that God would provide the lamb is evidence of His Great Faith and in the next resource we will look at two other evidences of Abraham's Great Faith, which empower his ability to demonstrate the righteousness he does.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is Great Faith so powerful to being able to live out a life of righteousness?
2. Why are faith and trust not the same thing?
3. How do faith and trust work together?
4. How are living from faith and living towards faith different?
5. What has challenged you the most from going through this resource, and why?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/LX08tLXiQoQ>