

Learning to Trust God

Jehovah Jirah = “The Lord Will Provide”

FOUR OF LIFE’S GREATEST TESTS

I. THE **PERPLEXING** TEST: Am I open to **learning** something **new**?

📖 Genesis 22:1–2 (NIV84) “...God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then 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 one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

📖 Hebrews 11:17–19 (NIV84) “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.”

📖 Proverbs 3:5 (ESV) “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

II. THE **PERSEVERANCE** TEST: When tempted to **quit**, will I keep **going**?

📖 Genesis 22:3–4 (NIV84) “Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.”

📖 Genesis 22:5-6a10 (NIV84) “He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife.”

📖 James 1:2–4 (NIV84) “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

📖 Romans 5:3–4 (NIV84) “...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

III. THE **PEOPLE** TEST: Will I **trust** that God has **got** me?

📖 Genesis 22:6b-10 (NIV84) “As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham answered, “God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. ⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”

📖 Jeremiah 17:7 (NIV84) “...blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.”

📖 Psalm 50:15 (NKJV) “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

IV. THE **PRIORITIES** TEST: Will I **hold** onto things **loosely**?

📖 Genesis 22:11–12 (NIV84) “But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” He said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

📖 Genesis 22:13–14 (NIV84) “Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

Digging Deeper: How well do you handle disappointment? Are you passing the tests of life? Do you still trust God even though you don’t understand what He is doing in your life? Can you give an example of a time that God come through for you in the nick of time? What has God asked you to do that makes no earthly sense? When you’ve quit things in your life, what usually precipitated it? In what ways have people let you down? Has God ever let you down? Is God first place in your life?