

HOW GOD TESTS OUR FAITH

God's Ways Are Higher, Part 3

Pastor Ken Ritz * August 19, 2012 * New Life Vineyard Church

...take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:17

So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:9

TEST #1: The Test Of A _____

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8-9

"By faith, Abraham, even though he was past age, and Sarah herself was barren, was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise.

Hebrews 11:11-12

- Will I follow God's leading without knowing where?

TEST #2: The Test Of A _____

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

Hebrews 11:9

**God wants us to base our lives on His promises,
God wants us to live based on expectations, not on explanations.**

- Will I wait for God's timing without knowing when

TEST #3: The test of an _____

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked Abraham. 'There in the tent,' he said.

Then the Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Genesis 18:10-15

- Will I trust God faithfulness without knowing how?

TEST #4: The Test Of A _____

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Hebrews 11:17-19

- Will I trust God's purposes without knowing why?

Questions:

Which of these tests are you experiencing?

Is your faith growing?

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*