

## I AM ABRAHAM

### Part Four: THE BEST TEST

*The Story of God testing Abraham with Isaac*

#### **Genesis 22:1–19**

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."<sup>2</sup> Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.<sup>4</sup> Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.<sup>5</sup> And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."<sup>6</sup> So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.<sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?"<sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.<sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.<sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.<sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."<sup>12</sup> And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from

Me.”<sup>13</sup> Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.<sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”<sup>15</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,<sup>16</sup> and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—<sup>17</sup> blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.<sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”<sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

### **THE BEST TEST:**

#### **Four Questions About God’s Test of Abraham and How it Applies To Us**

1. Is there any basis in Scripture beyond the story of Abraham and Isaac that proves God only releases His best when we give Him our best?

Genesis 4 – The story of Cain and Abel

### **Proverbs 3:9–10**

Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;<sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

**Matthew 6:32–33**

For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**Luke 6:36–38**

Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. <sup>37</sup>  
 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

**Revelation 2:2–5**

“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

2. Is that fair?

**1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (NKJV)**

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

3. If God requires our best before He releases His best to us why isn't that legalism and performance?

a. The most important blessings in life and in eternity are our freely by grace.

b. God's motivation isn't righteousness - it is relationship.

### **Matthew 22:36–40**

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, '*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*'<sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment.<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*'<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

c. God requires our best because He knows that our passions cannot be separated from our priorities.

### **Matthew 6:19–21**

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

4. How do you give God your best?

a. Make Jesus the Lord of every area of your life without any exceptions.

b. Pray about every significant decision in your life and don't act without the Lord's approval. (Prayer and the Word)

- c. Seek God every day in the best part of your day in a relational manner to know Him and to love Him and honor the Sabbath by beginning your week seeking God and worshipping Him.
- d. Tithe and give from the first of your finances in obedience to the Lord.
- e. Use your gifts and talents to serve God and to advance His Kingdom. It should be the primary purpose you live for.