

Consequences of Faith

The Testing of Abraham

FOUNDATIONS 260 - OLD TESTAMENT SERIES

BASED ON THE TEACHING BY PETER FOXWELL, THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH



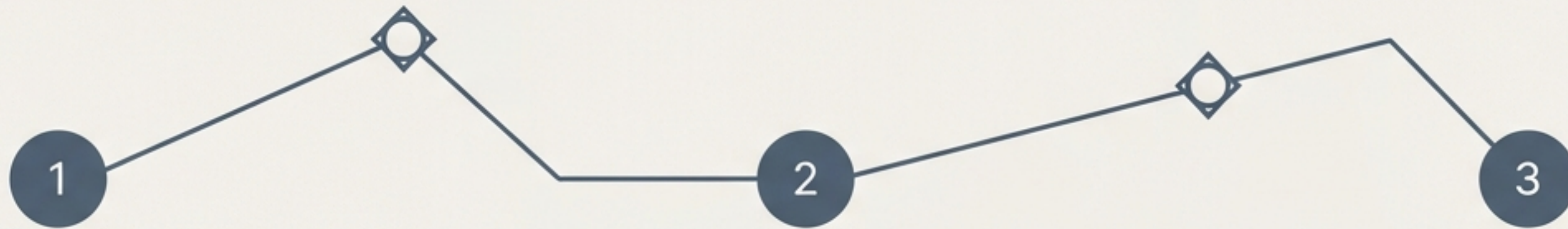
Faith is flying blind through the clouds.

When a pilot climbs into the cloud layer, they lose all visual reference. They cannot see where they are going. To survive, they must ignore their instincts and rely entirely on their instruments and the air traffic controllers.

This is the definition of faith: **Trusting God's character and promises** over our own clarity. We **trust the instruments**, not our eyes.

The Impossible Command

“Genesis 22” in Playfair Display



The Command

Take your son, your only son,
Isaac, whom you love...

The Journey

3 Days to Moriah. Wood
split. Donkey saddled.

The Ascent

Fire and knife in hand.
Father and son walking alone.

“Take your son, your only son, Isaac,
whom you love...” — Genesis 22:2

The Stakes: Isaac was the miracle child, the key to the “Great Nation” promise. Abraham was asked to destroy the very vessel of God’s promise.

Did God really intend for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?

This is the thorny question that stops many readers. **Does God expect or approve of child sacrifice?**

NO.

Six proofs that this was a test, not a tragedy.



1. The Label

Verse 1 explicitly states God “tested” Abraham.



2. The Expectation

Abraham told his servants, “WE will come back.” He expected Isaac to return.



3. The Intervention

The Angel commanded, “Do not lay a hand on the boy” (v. 12).



4. The Law

Leviticus and Deuteronomy explicitly condemn child sacrifice (e.g., **Lev 18:21**).



5. The Faith

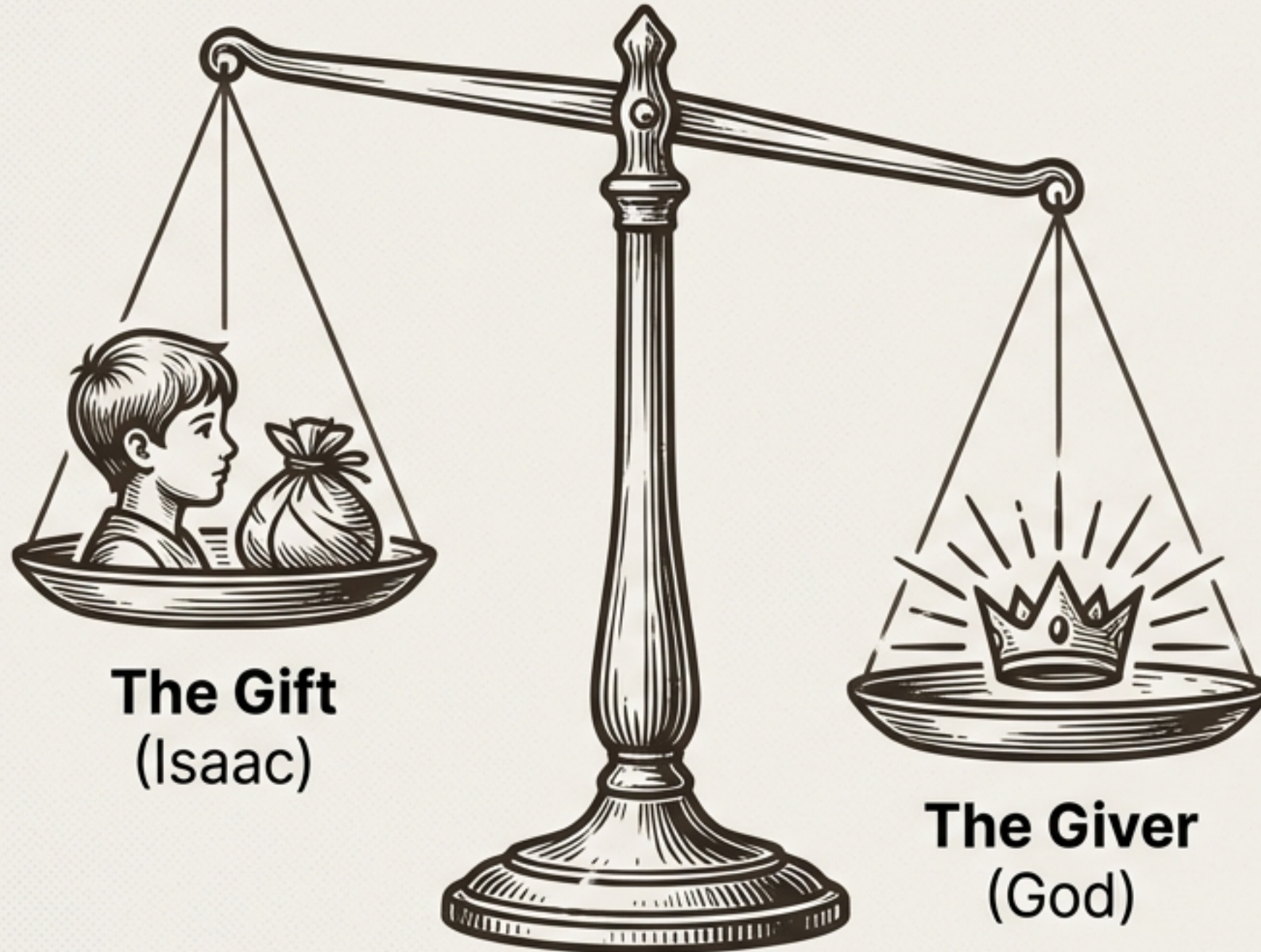
Abraham told Isaac, “God himself will provide the lamb” (v. 8).



6. The Resurrection

Hebrews 11:19 reveals Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead.

Consequence #1: Faith must be tested.

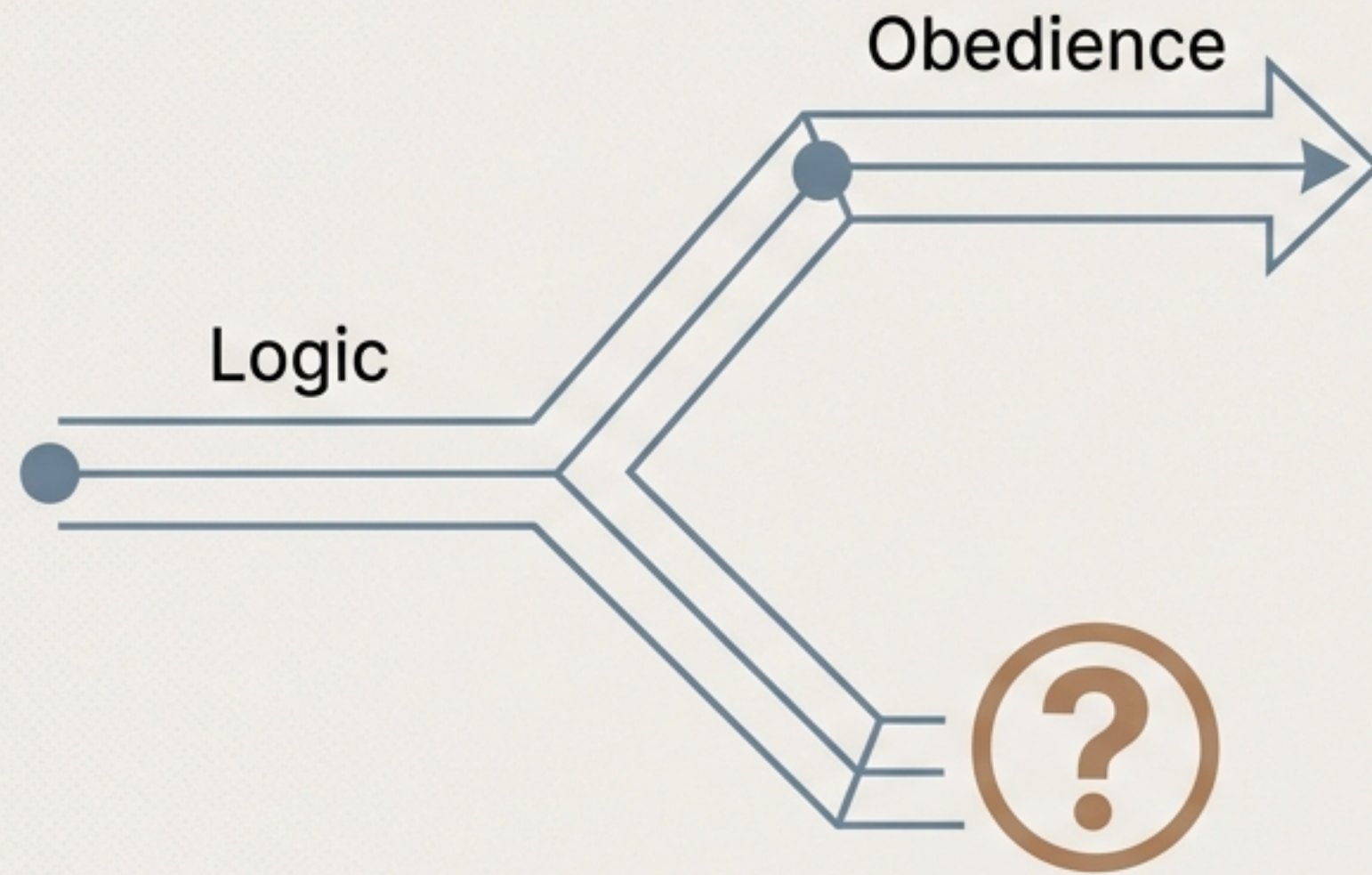


God presented Abraham with a one-of-a-kind exam.

The Exam Question: Do you love the Gift or the Giver more?

Isaac was the miracle child. The danger was that he had become an idol in Abraham's heart—something treasured above God himself. God tests us to prove our faith is genuine **(1 Peter 1:6-7)**.

Genuine faith obeys even when it doesn't understand.



The command to sacrifice the “child of promise” seemed to undermine God’s previous promise to make Abraham a great nation. It made **no logical sense**.

The Challenge: Will we trust God’s character when His commands contradict our comprehension?

If we only obey when it makes sense to us, we aren’t living by faith; we are living **by logic**.

What does the test look like today?

Every situation is a binary choice:
Trust God's way or do it our way.

Who will you trust when:

- Obedience costs you money or reputation?
- You are lonely or hurting?
- The bills are mounting up?
- God hasn't answered your prayers on your timetable?
- You are in a season of abundance and success?

Consequence #2: God keeps His word.

Abraham looked up
and saw a ram caught
in the thicket.

He offered the ram
in place of his son.



The **Result**: Isaac
lived. The promise
remained intact.

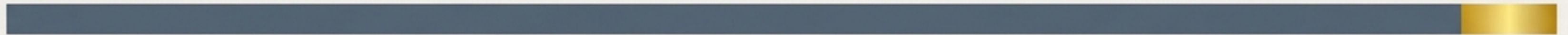
God is faithful.

The **Name**: Abraham named
the place "The LORD Will
Provide".

The provision came millimeters from the throat.

The Waiting / The Journey / The Weeping

The Provision



We often picture faith as serene, but Abraham was likely weeping and shaking.

God's intervention came at the last possible moment.

The Lesson: God has His own timetable. Delays are not denials. It felt “almost too late,” but with God, it is never too late.

Faith is rational because God cannot lie.

“God is not a man, that he might lie... Does he speak and not act?”

— Numbers 23:19

Romans 4 tells us Abraham was “fully convinced” that God was able to do what He promised. Faith isn’t blind optimism; it’s based on evidence. It proves we know God as He truly is: The faithful, powerful, wise Promise-Keeper.

Living the Promise-Driven Life.

The Problem

Anxiety. Murmuring. Focusing on the difficulty.

The Solution

Trust. Resolve. Focusing on the Promise.

“How many times do I come to the end of a day... and I haven’t even thought about trusting a promise? But do you know what else I’ve had in those eight hours? Anxiety. Murmuring.” — John Piper

Application Note: Shift your focus. Find a specific promise for your specific fear (generosity, temptation, loneliness).

Treat God's promise like a check.

Spurgeon's Methodology of Faith



ENDORSE IT

Sign your name to the promise. Believe it is true for you personally.



PRESENT IT

Take it to the "Bank of Heaven" in prayer. Plead the promise to the Lord.



EXPECT PAYOUT

Wait for the fulfillment. Count the promise as money already in hand.

The Ultimate Test

Jesus faced His own moment of decision. Would He offer Himself as the sacrifice?

Hebrews 12:2 says that for the “joy set before him,” He endured the cross.

Unlike Isaac, who was spared, Jesus was the Lamb provided by God who actually died—and rose again. He passed the test so we could inherit the promise.

Faith is not optional.

If you trust God even when it hurts, your faith is the real deal.

God has given no pledge He will not redeem, and encouraged
no hope He will not fulfill.

Take the check. Endorse it. Present it.



Recommended Reading: 'Future Grace' by John Piper & 'Faith's Checkbook' by C.H. Spurgeon.