

THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAITH

Part 4 of Foundation 260 - OT. Genesis 22:1-18.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 1, 2026.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HAVE FAITH?

Today, we're talking about faith in God.

- What happens when we have faith?
- The answer is found in Genesis 22, the story of Abraham and Isaac.

GENESIS 22:1-18 (CSB)

Read the passage in, for example, the Bible App.

- Before we move on, there is one burning question: Does God endorse child sacrifice? The answer is a categorical NO.
- Child sacrifice is condemned in Leviticus 18:21; Leviticus 20:2-5; Deuteronomy 12:31; and Deuteronomy 18:10.
- God prevented Abraham from sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22:12).

Genesis 22 reveals two consequences of living by faith in God.

TWO CONSEQUENCES OF LIVING BY FAITH

1. OUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED - VERSES 1-12.

God “tested” Abraham (verse 1).

- Would Abraham sacrifice his son as a burnt offering simply because God commanded it?
- The test got to the heart of Abraham’s faith: Isaac was the fulfillment of God’s promises in Genesis 12:1-3; 17:15-16; 21:1-3.

God tested Abraham's faith at two levels.

- Did Abraham trust God's character and promises?
- Did Abraham value his son above God?

God still tests our faith.

- His goal is to prove to us that our faith is genuine.
- If we obey his will even under pressure to do our own thing, it confirms that our faith is real, and it brings glory to God (See 1 Peter 1:6-7).

What do today's tests look like?

- Everything is a test; every day, in every way.
- In every situation of life, we're faced with two choices: will we trust God and his promises and obey, or will we trust in something or someone else and do things our way?

Abraham passed the test:

*Genesis 22:11-12 (CSB) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” He replied, “Here I am.” 12 Then he said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. **For now I know that you fear God**, since you have not withheld your only son from me.”*

2. OUR GOD WILL KEEP HIS WORD - VERSES 11-18.

God provided the lamb, and Isaac lived.

- God kept his promise at the last possible moment.
- Isaac lived and inherited God's promises to Abraham. His descendants became a great nation; the world has been blessed through Abraham, not least by his greatest descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

We are called to live the wonderful “promise-driven life.”

- Faith demonstrates that we know and trust in God’s character - he is the faithful, wise, powerful, promise-keeper.
- Faith honors God, who always keeps his promises.

Whatever situation you face, look at it through the lens of God’s character and promises.

- Find a promise that relates to your situation, whatever it is.
- John Piper’s book, *Future Grace*, taught me how to do this. It’s available for free download here: <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/future-grace>
- Also, Spurgeon’s book, *Faith’s Checkbook*, is a daily reminder to trust in God’s promises. Free download here: <https://www.monergism.com/faiths-checkbook-daily-devotional-ebook>

FAITH IS NOT OPTIONAL

We’ve discussed that our faith will be tested, but for good reasons:

- First, so we can know our faith in God is genuine, and
- Secondly, because our trust in God brings glory to God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ faced his own moment of decision.

Would he trust in God’s power and promise?

Hebrews 12:1-2 (CSB) Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- The joy set before him was his resurrection, ascension, and glorification. And, also, our salvation, resurrection, and glorification.
- Thankfully, Jesus chose to trust God. We should do the same.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's February 1st teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

1. When you hear that God still tests our faith, what emotions rise up in you (comfort, fear, confusion, gratitude)? What do those emotions reveal about what you actually believe about God's character?
2. Abraham obeyed even when God's command seemed to contradict God's promise about Isaac. Where in your life do faith in and obedience to God feel like they clash with what you expected God to do for you or through you?
3. In what ways can good gifts from God (family, ministry, career, reputation, health, comfort, etc.) quietly become idols we love more than God himself? What might it look like, practically, to "place that idol on the altar" this week?
4. "Everything is a test. Every day in every way." If you viewed your current circumstances as a faith test from God, how would that change the way you respond to your situation?

Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray for more grace to trust in God and his promises in every situation.