

The greatest tests of life

Life of Abraham – Hebrews 11:8-19

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow... ¹²God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” James 1:2-3 & 12

The four tests of a follower of Jesus

Test 1: A major change

*“It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.” Hebrews 11:8
(see Genesis 12:1-7)*

A follower of Jesus learns to follow God’s leading without knowing where.

Test 2: Delayed promise

*“And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. ¹⁰Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.” Hebrews 11:9-10
(see Gen 13 & 14)*

A follower of Jesus learns to wait for God’s timing without knowing when.

Test 3: An impossible problem

*“It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. ¹²And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.” Hebrews 11:11-12
(see Gen 17:15-22; 18:1-15 & 21:1-6)*

A follower of Jesus learns to expect a miracle without knowing how.

Test 4: A senseless tragedy

*“It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, ¹⁸even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Hebrews 11:17-18
(See Gen 22:1-19)*

A follower of Jesus learns to trust Gods purpose without knowing why.