

## TWELVE TESTS OF ABRAHAM / *Hebrews 11:17-18*

Abraham's faith was tested at least twelve specific times. Some of them were not what we might call big tests, but together they establish a picture of Abraham as a person whose faith was genuine. After the last of these, God said, "Now I know that you truly fear God, you have not withheld even your beloved son" (Genesis 22:12).

Each of Abraham's tests can have applications for us:

| Reference        | Test                                                                                                             | Application                                                                                                                               |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genesis 12:1-7   | Abraham left Ur and Haran for an unknown destination at God's direction.                                         | Do I trust God with my future? Is his will part of my decision making?                                                                    |
| Genesis 13:8-13  | Abraham directed a peaceful separation from Lot and settled at the oaks of Mamre.                                | Do I trust God with my interests even when I seem to be receiving an unfair settlement?                                                   |
| Genesis 14:13-16 | Abraham rescued Lot from the five kings.                                                                         | Does my faithfulness to others bear witness to my trust in God's faithfulness?                                                            |
| Genesis 14:17-24 | Abraham gave a tithe of loot to the godly king of Salem, Melchizedek, and refused the gift of the king of Sodom. | Am I watchful in my dealings with people that I give proper honor to God and refuse to receive honor that belongs to him?                 |
| Genesis 15:1-6   | Abraham trusted God's promise that he would have a son.                                                          | How often do I consciously reaffirm my trust in God's promises?                                                                           |
| Genesis 15:7-11  | Abraham received the promised land by faith, though the fulfillment would not come for many generations.         | How have I demonstrated my continued trust in God during those times when I have been required to wait?                                   |
| Genesis 17:9-27  | At God's command, Abraham circumcised every male in his family.                                                  | In what occasions in my life have I acted simply in obedience to God, and not because I understood the significance of what I was doing?  |
| Genesis 18:1-8   | Abraham welcomed strangers, who turned out to be angels.                                                         | When was the last time I practiced hospitality?                                                                                           |
| Genesis 18:22-33 | Abraham prayed for Sodom.                                                                                        | Am I eager to see people punished, or do I care for people in spite of their sinfulness?                                                  |
| Genesis 20:1-17  | Abraham admitted to wrongdoing and took the actions needed to set things right.                                  | When I sin, is my tendency to cover up, or confess? Do I practice the truth that an apology must sometimes be accompanied by restitution? |
| Genesis 21:22-34 | Abraham negotiated a treaty with Abimelech concerning a well.                                                    | Can people depend on my words and promises?                                                                                               |
| Genesis 22:1-12  | Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.                                                                     | In what ways has my life demonstrated that I will not allow anything to come before God?                                                  |