

STEPS OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH / *Romans 4:12*

Abraham's faith was tested a number of times. Each response was a step of faith. Some of these steps were not what we would call big tests, but together they establish a picture of Abraham as a man of genuine faith. After the last test, the angel of the LORD said, "Lay down the knife, . . . Do not hurt the boy in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld even your beloved son from me" (Genesis 22:12). Note that these "steps" are not "works" in that they earn God's approval; rather, they are the natural outflowing of the inward faith that God counts as righteousness.

Abraham's faith-steps can have applications for us:

Reference	Step	Application
Genesis 12:1-7	At God's direction, Abraham left Ur and Haran for a destination unknown.	Do I trust God with my future? Is his will part of my decision making?
Genesis 14:17-24	Abraham gave a tithe of loot to the godly king of Salem, Melchizedek, but he refused the gift from the king of Sodom.	In my dealings with people, am I careful to 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 promise?
Genesis 15:7-11	Abraham received the Promised Land by faith, though God warned him 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.	On what occasions in my life have I acted simply in obedience to God?
Genesis 18:22-33	Abraham prayed for Sodom.	Am I a person who cares for people in spite of their sinfulness?
Genesis 20:1-17	Abraham admitted to wrongdoing and took the actions necessary to set things right.	When I sin, do I tend to cover up or admit my fault? When needed, do I accompany my apology with restitution?
Genesis 22:1-12	Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.	How have I demonstrated that I will not allow anything in my life to come before God?