

The Patriarchs: A Life that Clings to God's Promises

But you promised!

A promise is a big deal when you're a kid. When mom and dad promise, they are locked in. And if they ever try to wriggle their way out of something they had said they would do, they are quickly reminded of how wrong that is. How much more should the believer cling to the promises of the God of truth?

Abraham Clings to God's Promises (vv. 17-19)

- **The _____ of Faith**
- God tests Abraham (Gen 22:1), but this same Greek word (*peirazo*) is used in James 1:13-14 to say God cannot tempt us! This word "try/tempt/test" has two meanings:
 1. To _____ in order to _____ (2 Cor 13:5).
 2. To _____ in order to _____ (Mark 1:13).

God tests us to see what we're made of (Heb 11:17), but he never he tempts us to do evil to harm us (James 1:13-14).

- **The _____ of Faith**
This passage shows us the difficulty of what God was asking for in three ways.

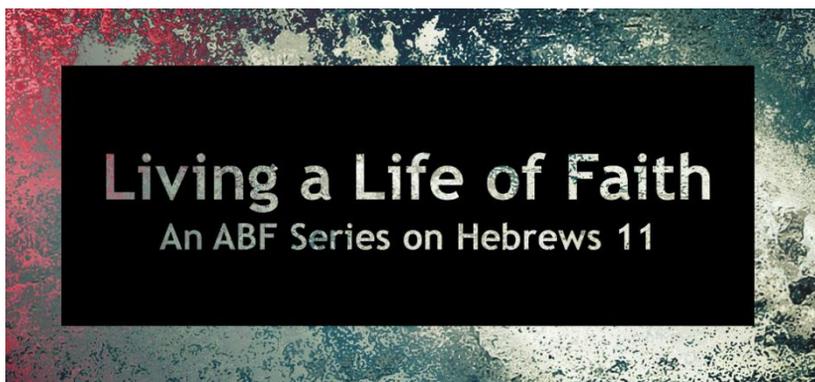
1. Abraham had _____ the promises.
2. Isaac was Abraham's _____ son, showing the _____ of the relationship.
3. Isaac was the one through whom the _____ of the _____ were coming.

- **The _____ of Faith**

Abraham expected to kill his son and believed God would raise him from the dead. We read about resurrections in Scripture, but all of them happen after Abraham! Abraham believed that God would fulfill His promises, even though the only way he could make explain it was by believing God would do something he had never done before!

The Patriarchs Cling to God's Promises (vv 20-22)

- _____ **Clings to God's Promises (v. 20)**
Isaac gave this blessing at the end of his life. This blessing was more than, "Have a good life!" Isaac was essentially saying "God is going to bless you and fulfill His promises through you," (cf. Genesis 27:28-29).
- _____ **Clings to God's Promises (v. 21)**
As Joseph was dying, he too gave a prophetic blessing, this time to the sons of Joseph (Genesis 48:20-21) "Leaning upon the top of his staff" points out that his strength was gone, yet Jacob continued worshipping and believing his God.
- _____ **Clings to God's Promises (v. 22)**
Joseph too believed that God would fulfill his promises (cf. Genesis 50:24-25), believing so strongly that he his descendants would return to the promised land that he gave instructions for when it happened!



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