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TRIED TO BE TRUSTED

The knife was ready to be plunged into Isaac. God had told Abraham to take his son up the mountain and sacrifice him. Isaac had carried the wood up the mountain for the sacrificial fire. When they got there Isaac asked where the ram was that would be sacrificed. His father said to him in Genesis 22:8, ***“And Abraham said, my son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”***

This was a test to see if Abraham would be willing to give the only son that he and Sarah had. Abraham had made a covenant with God. This meant that everything that was Abraham's now belonged to God, and everything that God had belonged to Abraham. Nothing would be held back, not even his son.

The story goes on to say that God stayed Abraham's hand and provided a ram for the sacrifice. He knew if Abraham would willingly sacrifice his son Isaac, that he could trust him. One day God would sacrifice his only begotten son as a sacrifice, the ultimate test of faith, but it made a way for all mankind to receive salvation.

Often, we go through great trials that stretch our faith beyond what we could ever imagine. We don't know if we can even continue, but we make it through by trusting God and not doubting him. He allows us to go through these tests and trials to see if he can trust us. Many do not pass the test. Look at Judas. He was with Jesus three years, entrusted with the money from Jesus' ministry. He was one of the twelve sent out that ministered, yet when the test came, he betrayed Jesus. He lost his reward because of this.

We must look at our trials and hard times as being the testing ground of trust. God allows us to go through these things to make us stronger. When he sees that he can trust us with the small things, then he rewards us with bigger things. Think of the talents and minas (pound). This illustrates the gifts that God gives. He entrusts us to bring increase through them. Those that brought an increase were rewarded. Those that brought no increase lost what they had been given.

It is sobering to see how many fail tests. Let it be a lesson to us that God tries us to be able to trust us. Great trust comes from great trials. Remember this as you go through them.

Years ago, the Lord spoke this scripture to me from Isaiah 48:10: ***“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.”*** I didn't understand it, and I actually said to the Lord, “Thanks loads!” Now I understand he allowed this path to refine me to be able to trust me.

What about you? Is he refining you?