

Commitment Through Trials

Winter 2018 Gospel Meeting
Fifth Street East Church of Christ
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Commitment Through Trials

- I. Abraham's Trial: Genesis 22:1-14
 - A. God's command was Abraham's test: 1-2
 - B. Abraham's trust in God: 3-8
 - 1. Design of God's testing – root out idols in our heart: Ezekiel 14:1-6
 - a. Earthly treasures: Matthew 6:19-20; 19:16-22
 - b. Earthly relationships: Luke 14:26
 - 2. Even when God's command seems illogical/counterproductive: verse 5; Hebrews 11:17-19; cf. Romans 4:18-21

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- C. Abraham's obedience: 9-10
- D. Abraham endured testing and maintained his commitment to God: 11-14
- II. The Purpose of Trials
 - A. To measure our commitment: 1 Corinthians 10:12; Romans 12:3
 - B. To teach us God's faithfulness: Titus 1:2; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Numbers 23:19-20
 - C. To better understand God's working in us: Hebrews 5:14; 13:5-6; cf. Daniel 4:31-32

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- D. To help us grow stronger in faith: James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:5-7
 - 1. No spiritual growth = no commitment
 - 2. Too many face trial with little faith and complaints:
 - * "Too unreasonable" = puts man's opinion equal with God's will: Romans 9:20
 - * "Why now Lord?" – God's time, not ours: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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- * "This isn't fair": cf. Psalms 73:1-3, 16-17
- * "This is unbearable": 1 Corinthians 10:13

- III. Enduring Through Trials Results In:
 - A. Humility: 2 Corinthians 12:7ff.; 1 Peter 5:6-11
 - B. Courage: Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 Peter 4:12-16
 - C. Emulating Christ: Hebrews 12:3-6, 10
 - D. Kinship with God: Hebrews 12:7-9
 - E. Holiness: Hebrews 12:10; 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - F. Peace: Hebrews 12:11; Philippians 4:6-8

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So Now What???

Hebrews 12:12-13
1 Peter 4:17-19