

## Hebrews 11 / Genesis 22

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death. Before he was taken, he was commended as having pleased God. Without faith it is impossible to please him.

By faith, Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark to save his household. He condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

And by faith Abraham obeyed.

God tested Abraham. He called out to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am."

God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, cut the wood for the sacrifice, and loaded it on his donkey. He took two of his servants with him and his son, Isaac, and went to the place that God had shown him.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. He said to the servants, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood from the donkey and placed it on Isaac's shoulders. Abraham himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father, "Father!"

"Here I am, my son."

"We have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb.” So, the two of them continued up the mountain.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He then bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am.”

“Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket and he offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place, “The Lord will provide.”

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord. Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

So Abraham returned to his servants, and they rose and went together to Beersheba.