

The Great Reward Of Your Works Of Faith

True! You Don't Have To Honor God...

(NKJV) 1 Sa 2:27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 28 Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? 29 Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' 30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. 31 Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32 And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. 33 But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

You don't have to do anything for God...you don't have to do what he says.

Adam and Eve were told...you must not eat, yet he did not try to stop them.

He tells us many things to do, but he will never make us do anything! No one HAS to serve him...you can live your life the way you want, doing whatever you want. You can, like most people ignore his bible... He has given us a choice!

Life and death! Blessing and curses! It is up to us.

BUT IF YOU DO! If you make the sacrifices...to travel the road less traveled, forsaking the things of the world that can be yours now and choose to follow a God you cannot see.

You will experience in this life his direct attention and protection and then in the world hereafter...eternal joy and happiness!

Life is choice driven...You don't have to serve him...But if you do! He will reward you!

(NKJV) Heb 11:6 But without faith (*faith to serve him who is unseen but seen*) *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

THE GREATER YOUR WORKS OF FAITH FOR GOD THE GREATER YOUR REWARD FROM GOD

True! You Don't Have To Honor God... But If You Do!

(NKJV) Ge 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Sacrifice for me and I will bless you beyond your ability to imagine!!

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

I will do for you and it will overflow as blessings to others!

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

*I will protect you and be against
those that are against you and you
will be a blessing to the whole world!*

*What made Abraham so great in God eyes that he was willing to do these things for him?
His works of faith caused God to reward him. I want God's reward for me and you. So, I will reveal what we can
see about Abraham's life so we can be more blessed in this life!*

NKJV) Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, (a work of faith) and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

Abraham Faith Revealed by his works

19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

(NKJV) Gen 15 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

The Reward would be a son!

2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

GOD REWARDS HIS SERVANTS WHO REVEAL THEIR FAITH BY THEIR WORKS

(NKJV) Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

To be declared righteous by God is the greatest word that God can speak over his servant! The righteousness of God comes by faith. Faith that is revealed by the servant's works!

(NKJV) Ps 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. 20 He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

(NKJV) 1 Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor (*Works of Faith*) is not in vain in the Lord.

GOD ALWAYS REWARDS FAITH!

Heb 11:6 He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

(NKJV) Mt 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”

GOD REVEALS HIS REWARDS ACCORDING TO HOW YOU REVEAL YOUR FAITH

(NKJV) Ps 50:5 “Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”

(NKJV) Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you *present your bodies* a livingsacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

That's why he told Abraham to leave all behind of his world!

GOD REWARDS HIS SERVANTS WHO REVEAL THEIR FAITH BY THEIR WORKS

- I. **(NKJV) Ge 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 Then He said, “Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”**
- A. He is testing him to reward him! He is seeking to find out if his faith is matured enough so that he may bless him!
 - B. Hebrew: Elohim the creator. God the most Powerful
 1. Why did God test him this way, The dead sea scrolls say it was because Satan had challenged God just as he did regarding Job
 2. What was the end result of Job's testing?
(NKJV) Job 42:12 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning;
 - C. Rabbi's mention 10 important test.
 1. Was he willing to give up his country, his family, his home (counted as three testing in one)
 2. The famine of Canaan
 3. Gave up Lot his nephew
 4. When Pharaoh took Sarai as his wife
 5. When he was told to be circumcised
 6. Putting away of Hagar and Ishmael
 7. Now to give up Isaac
 - D. He was tested many times. Others (as indicated by John G. Butler in Abraham) were...
 1. The forsaking test: leaving his land and relatives to come to the land of Canaan.
 2. The famine test: experiencing a famine in Canaan shortly after arriving there.
 3. The falsehood test: lying in Egypt about Sarah being his sister instead of his wife.
 4. The fellowship test: separating from Lot.
 5. The first-choice test: letting Lot have first choice in the selecting of the land.
 6. The forgiveness test: rescuing greedy and disrespectful Lot when Lot was captured by Chedorlaomer's armies.
 7. The fight test: attacking Chedorlaomer's armies to free Lot and Sodom, even though he had much fewer soldiers than Chedorlaomer's coalition.
 8. The fortune test: turning down the king of Sodom's offer to take all the goods of Sodom.
 9. The fear test: fearing retaliation after defeating Chedorlaomer's armies—his fear is revealed in the fact that God told him to “Fear not” (Genesis 15:1).
 10. The faith test: believing God about the promised son and, as a result, being declared righteous.

11. The faithfulness test: abiding patiently by the animals he had slain at God's command to confirm the covenant.
12. The fatherhood test: having a son via Hagar.
13. The forbearance test: having to put up with Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael after Hagar and Ishmael had returned from fleeing Sarah's harsh treatment.
14. The flesh test: circumcising all the males in his household after God commanded him to do so.
15. The friendship test: showing God and the two angels great hospitality when they visited him.
16. The fervency test: asking God repeatedly to spare the city of Sodom.
17. The second falsehood test: lying in Gerar, as he had done in Egypt, about Sarah being his sister.
18. The farewell test: casting Ishmael and Hagar out of his household after Ishmael had mocked Isaac.
19. The flattery test: reproving evil before making a covenant with Abimelech who had greatly complimented Abraham when requesting the covenant with him.
20. The foremost test (the one we are concerned about in this study—we could also call it the fiery test): submitting to God's command to offer Isaac for a burnt offering.
21. The funeral test: experiencing the death of Sarah.
22. The financial test: dealing honestly and wisely in buying a burying place for Sarah.
23. The father-in-law test: seeing to it that his son Isaac obtained the proper wife.
24. The family test: enlarging his family through Keturah which was a questionable situation.
25. The fidelity test: administering the distribution of his estate so that Isaac received the covenant inheritance just as God had decreed.

E. Notice he says, **"Take now your son, your only son Isaac,"**

1. It is repeated

(NKJV) Ge 22:12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, 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."

(NKJV) Ge 22:16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—

- a. See in each verse the word "only" precedes son. Son is in italics! Not included in the original!
 - (1) This emphasis is that Isaac is his only...
 - (2) There is no one left! He is being asked to give up all for God.
 - (3) Isaac is his future! His last hope! He is too old to have any more children!
- b. Isaac was Abraham's only and Jesus was God's only!
- c. So too does God ask of us! He says he must be first and all!

GOD EXPECTS YOU TO GIVE UP ALL FOR HIM!

2. So many don't understand this!

- a. Why was Abraham so loved? He was willing to give his only and all to God!
- b. God was willing and gave his all and only to us.
 - (1) Are you will to give to him your best?
- c. So very few are willing to give their all in obeying God.
 - (1) They won't tithe, and they have good incomes.
 - (2) They won't come to church
 - (3) They won't come to bible study
 - (4) They call themselves believers but are not willing to give up for God if it means they have to go out of their way

- (5) Yet, they claim to be a follower of the One Who gave His all for their salvation on Calvary.
 - (6) You know what many of these Christians are called? Hypocrites!
- 3. God said:
 - (NKJV) Pr 23:26 My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.**
 - (NKJV) Mt 22:37 Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’**
 - (NKJV) Lk 14:26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.**
 - a. Think of how many are not willing to give their all to God. They want to believe God does not want all.
 - (1) They want an easy God and get mad with people who encourage them to be more faithful to God.
 - (2) How faithful are you to coming to and serving in church?
- F. See how mean God appears to be: "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love,
 - 1. Not a Lamb, goat, Bull, Ox, not your servant, not Ishmael, but your son, your only son, the one you love
 - 2. What he wants may not be right to you but it is his will. Doing God's will, will always bless you even when you can't see that it will.
 - a. Look at what happened to Jesus!
 - 3. God didn't even give Abraham a reason! Just Kill your son
 - a. You must do it with your own hand
 - 4. God will always test with something dear to you, this was Abraham's greatest joy.
 - a. God will test you
 - (1) to give up your time
 - (2) to give up your labor
 - (3) to give up your money
 - (4) to give up your desires
 - b. It will always be something you don't want to do. God knows your heart but he wants to know by your actions you will put him first!
 - (NKJV) Mt 22:37 Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment.**

(NKJV) Jn 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

IF YOU ARE NOT SERVING GOD HOW CAN HE SAY TO YOU “WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT?”.

- G. Testing is for the righteous, not the unrighteous. There is no need to test those things that are flawed. It is known they will fail.
 - (NKJV) Ps 11:5 The LORD tests the righteous,**
 - 1. God allows you to go through trials to strengthen you and to reward you. Every trial builds you up.
 - 2. When a man has two oxen a strong one and a weak one upon which does he put the yoke?
 - God only test the righteous
 - 3. When you go through a trial recognize it is for a purpose. What purpose?
 - a. So that God may elevate you to a higher level!
 - b. James says:

(NKJV) Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

(NIV84) Jas 1:4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

See these words mature, complete, not lacking anything. You are tested to see if you're able to have everything given to you

- (1) Testing produces patience/faithfulness in the thing God desires
- (2) Patience/faithfulness produces maturity
- (3) Maturity produces rewards
- (4) God wants you mature so he may reward you!

MATURITY REQUIRES A DIFFERENT MINDSET THAN THE WORLD

H. Maturity requires a different mindset than the world

(NKJV) Ro 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

(NKJV) 2 Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

(NKJV) 2 Co 5:16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

1. God desires to provide you with more...you are tested to see if you will be faithful in a few things so that he may provide you with more things.
2. This is how he matures you
 - a. This is true with Abraham... it is also true with you.
 - b. Abraham will come to know God differently after this testing!
3. God will not let trials overcome you
 - a. **(NKJV) 1 Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**
 - b. Temptation - Adversity
 - c. Nothing is new under the Sun
4. You must keep serving God no matter what the temptation is