



VERIFIED TEST RESULTS

✓ Abraham

✓ Isaac

✓ Jacob

✓ Joseph

✓ Amram

✓ Jochebed

✓ Moses

✓ _____

✓ _____



PASSING THE FAITH TEST
—BELIEVING GOD FOR LIFE—

PART ONE:
ABRAHAM, THE MAN WHO BELIEVED GOD.

1. Abraham is arguably the greatest example of faith in the Bible based on the extensive and in depth accounts of his life and his decisions of faith.

- A. Abraham believed God.
- B. His faith journey began in Ur of the Chaldeans and continued and grew throughout his life.
- C. Abraham believed God in such a way that God counted it to him as righteousness.
 - (Genesis 15:6 ESV) **And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**
- D. Abraham's life of strong confidence in and obedience to God defines biblical faith.

Faith (pistes) means ... to believe; believing to the extent to have strong confidence in, and reliance upon, someone or something; often with the object of trust understood.

2. God tested Abraham throughout his life beginning at Ur and when he was tested at these various junctures ... by faith he obeyed God, 11:17-19.

- (Hebrews 11:17–19 LSB) **By faith Abraham, when he was tested,** offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only son, 18 to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED." 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he also received him back.
- A. Abraham was one of God's righteous ones who lived by faith—he believed God.
 - (Romans 1:17b ESV) As it is written, "**The righteous shall live by faith.**"
- B. Living by faith was his modus operandi and so offering up Isaac was by faith.
- C. Abraham passed the test and his willingness to offer up Isaac—an obedient work of faith—demonstrates the genuine and complete nature of his faith.
 - (James 2:21–23 ESV) Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22

You see that faith was active along with his works, **and faith was completed by his works**; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "**Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness**"—and he was called a friend of God.

Completed ... τελειόω [teleioo] ... to perfect; to make complete of its kind and without defect or blemish; to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end; to complete (perfect); add what is yet wanting in order to render a thing full; to be found perfect; to accomplish.

3. For Abraham to pass the faith test and offer up Isaac he had to trust in the Lord with all his heart.

- A. Trusting in the Lord with all his heart meant turning away from any scenarios that he would create in his mind as a result of leaning on his own understanding.
 - (Proverbs 3:5–7 ESV) **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him,** and he will make straight your paths. 7 **Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.**
- B. Abraham considered that God might raise Isaac from the dead but he didn't consider God's very simple solution of providing an actual, literal lamb.
 - (Genesis 22:8 ESV) Abraham said, "**God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering,** my son." So they went both of them together.
 - (Genesis 22:12–13 LSB) And He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the boy, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only one, from Me." 13 **Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there was a ram after it had been caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.**
- C. Biblical faith is fully and completely trusting in the Lord and fully and completely **not** trusting in our own understanding.
 - (1 Corinthians 2:1–5 LSB) And when I came to you, brothers, I did not come with superiority of word or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the witness of God. 2

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my word and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 **so that your faith would not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

D. Being tested in this way proves more to us in regard to understanding who we are and what we are made of than it proves or reveals to God.

E. To be tested means to be put to the test in order to ascertain the nature of someone, including imperfections, faults, or other qualities.

The Greek word is πειράζω [piradzo] and means to try whether a thing can be done; to attempt, endeavor; to try, make trial of, test: for the purpose of ascertaining his quantity, or what he thinks, or how he will behave himself.

4. Abraham did not believe God with the intent of working for his right position before God.

- (Romans 4:1–8 ESV) What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”** 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 **And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,** 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

PART TWO: OTHERS WHO ALSO BELIEVED GOD.

1. Isaac passed the faith test when he blessed Jacob and Esau believing God for his promise of things to come, 11:20.

- (Hebrews 11:20 LSB) By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.

2. Jacob passed the faith test as he was dying in faith (see 11:13), worshiping God and leaning on his staff but still blessed each of the sons of Joseph, 11:21.

- (Hebrews 11:21 LSB) By faith Jacob, **as he was dying**, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and **WORSHIPED**, leaning **ON THE TOP OF HIS STAFF**.
- (Hebrews 11:13 LSB) **All these died in faith, without receiving the promises**, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

3. Joseph passed the faith test as he was dying in faith (see 11:13) and looked ahead to the promised exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt, 11:22.

- (Hebrews 11:22 LSB) By faith Joseph, **when he was dying**, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave commands concerning his bones.

4. Amram and Jochebed passed the faith test because they trusted God more than they feared the king and so they hid Moses, 11:23.

- (Hebrews 11:23 LSB) By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.
- (Exodus 1:22 LSB) And Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, **“Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile,** and every daughter you are to keep alive.”
- (Exodus 2:1–3 LSB) And a man from the house of Levi went and took a daughter of Levi as a wife. 2 And the woman conceived and bore a son; and she saw that he was beautiful, so she hid him for three months. 3 But she could not hide him any longer. So she took for him an ark of papyrus reeds and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and put it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.
- (Exodus 6:20 ESV) **Amram** took as his wife

Jochebed his father's sister, and she bore him Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years.

- (Numbers 26:59 ESV) **The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi**, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister.

5. The faith tests of Moses, 11:24-29.

A. Moses passed the faith test by choosing the insults, disgrace and public reproach of following Christ as greater riches than the enjoyment of the passing pleasures of sin, 11:24-26.

- (Hebrews 11:24–26 LSB) By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 regarding the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

B. Moses passed the faith test by leaving Egypt— looking to the unseen King of all and not fearing the king of the land, 11:27.

- (Hebrews 11:27 LSB) By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the rage of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

C. Moses passed the faith test by trusting God and keeping the Passover, 11:28.

- (Hebrews 11:28 LSB) By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

D. Moses passed the faith test by leading the Israelites through the Red Sea as if they were walking on dry land, 11:29.

- (Hebrews 11:29 LSB) By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land, and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

WE ARE THE FAITHFUL ONES ...

APPROVED BY GOD ...

BELIEVING GOD FOR LIFE ...



WE ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO SHRINK BACK ...