

# Three Tests of Genuine Faith

Heb. 11:17-19

Introduction:

- A. Abraham's faith tested genuineness by the command of God.
- B. Abraham's faith illustrates three tests of genuine faith.

Discussion:

## I. The Authority Test.

- A. Abraham's faith based on God's word — not blind faith nor faith in faith. (cf. Romans 10:17).
- B. Abraham's faith based *specific* authority. (Gen. 22:2).
  - 1. As to *what* was offered. (cf. Items of worship).
  - 2. As to *who* offered - Abraham, not Sarah, etc.
    - a. Church or individual relieving (1 Tim. 5:16).
    - b. Christian or Civil government executing vengeance. (Rom. 12:19-13:4).
    - c. Christian or Alien Sinner praying for forgiveness. (Acts 8:22)
    - d. Church or human institution doing church work.
- C. Abraham's faith also based on *general* authority. (Gen. 22:3).
  - a. Donkey and men included in command to "Take..." - methods of "taking."
  - b. Donkey and men parallel to church buildings, song books, etc.

## II. The Trust Test.

- A. Abraham trusted God's *promise*. (vs. 18,19; Gen. 12:1-2; 21:12).
- B. Abraham trusted God's *power*. (v. 19).
- C. Abraham trusted God's *purpose*. (Did not demand to know *why*)
  - 1. God's word is reason enough for: baptism, L.S. every Sunday, etc.
  - 2. God's reasons must be respected if given: Reason for baptism, reason for L.S. (cf. 1 Cor. 11:20 ff.)

## III. The Works Test.

- A. Abraham justified by faith when it worked. ("offered")
  - 1. Not by works of the law or of merit. (Rom. 4:1-8).
  - 2. But, by works of obedience to faith. (Jas. 2:21-24; cf. Rom. 1:5)
- B. "Abraham's seed" children of God by faith when are baptized. (Gal. 3:26-29).

Conclusion: A. We need faith that respects word of God and the One behind the word.

- A. We need faith that obeys word of God and the One behind the word.
- B. We need faith that trusts word of God and the One behind the word.