**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Grace that Provides**

**I. Understand that Sometimes God Tests the Genuineness of Our Faith**

**22:1** - *…God tested Abraham…*

A. In balance with passages like James 1:13

**James 1:13** - *Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.*

**Romans 15:4** - *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

B. Involving our greatest treasures

**Genesis 22:2** - *He said, “Take now your son…”*

**Psalm 50:10-12** - *For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains.*

C. Involving our exclusive treasures

**Genesis 22:2** - *He said, “Take now your son, your only son…”*

D. Involving our cherished treasures

**Genesis 22:2** - *He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love…”*

E. In ways that we can’t see the outcome in advance

**Genesis 22:2** - *He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”*

**Genesis 21:12** - *…through Isaac your descendants shall be named.*

**Hebrews 11:1** - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

**II. God is Pleased When His People Do Their Part in Passing His Tests**

A. He obeyed right away

**Genesis 22:3** - *So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey…*

B. He split the wood

**Genesis 22:3** - *…and he split wood for the burnt offering*

C. He went to the approved place

**Genesis 22:3** - *…and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.*

**Genesis 22:4** - *On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.*

**Genesis 22:9** - *Then they came to the place of which God had told him…*

D. He testified to the servants

**Genesis 22:5** - *Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”*

E. He placed the wood on Isaac’s back

**Genesis 22:6** - *Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son…*

F. He carried “the fire and the knife”

**Genesis 22:6** - *… and he took in his hand the fire and the knife.*

**Genesis 22:6** - *…so the two of them walked on together.*

**Genesis 22:7** - *Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”*

G. He testified to Isaac

**Genesis 22:8** - *Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.*

H. He built the altar and arranged it just as God instructed

**Genesis 22:9** - *Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.*

I. He stretched out his hand and took the knife

**Genesis 22:10** - *Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.*

**Romans 4:16** - *For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all…*

**III. God Provides All the Strength, Grace, and Resources to Help Us Pass Tests Successfully**

A. Abraham’s obedience revealed the genuineness of his faith

**Genesis 22:12** - *He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”*

**Romans 8:32** - *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all…*

B. God’s timing is always perfect

**Genesis 22:13** - *Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and* *Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.*

**Genesis 22:15-18** - *Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”*