

The Principle of Believing God Anyway

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"The principle of believing God anyway"

Genesis 22:1-4 NRSV

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

² He said, "Take 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 that I shall show you."

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Genesis 22:1-4 NRSV

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.

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Genesis 22:5-8 NRSV

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

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Genesis 22:5-8 NRSV

⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

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Genesis 22:9-12 NRSV

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son

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Genesis 22:9-12 NRSV

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your 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."

"The principle of believing God anyway"

Doing the hard thing – It's faith not maturity

Genesis 22:1-12 NRSV



"The principle of believing God anyway"

Doing the hard thing – It's faith not maturity

When we reflect on the story of Abraham all of us have probably been in a place of hearing or believing God has instructed us to do a thing like Abraham was also challenged to do. Sometimes this instruction or request from God seems to be an extremely hard thing to do. Not only is it a hard thing to do, but on top of that we often don't know how to go about executing the instruction or request.

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Your spiritual maturity level doesn't exempt you from the testing of your faith

One of the common denominators in testing and believing God anyway is that oftentimes it doesn't matter the level of spiritual maturity, because that won't determine if you will be tested or not. IT'S ALL ABOUT FAITH!

"The principle of believing God anyway"

You can't quit – The struggle is the struggle

1 Corinthians 15:58 NRSV

Isaiah 40:28-31 NRSV



"The principle of believing God anyway"

You can't quit – The struggle is the struggle

1 Corinthians 15:58 NRSV

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

"The principle of believing God anyway"

You can't quit – The struggle is the struggle

Isaiah 40:28-31 NRSV

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

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You can't quit – The struggle is the struggle

Isaiah 40:28-31 NRSV

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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You can't quit – The struggle is the struggle

God's process takes time! We live in such an instantaneous culture that we no longer understand how to wait on anything. Our expectation is for it to have happened yesterday. God always has a due season and an appointed time for the circumstances and situations in our life. It forces us to grow in faith.

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You can't quit – The struggle is the struggle

Wait on the Lord...

Passive or Active?

Scholars have debated whether this is a passive waiting or an active waiting.

"The principle of believing God anyway"

God has a track record – Remember what God has done because he's faithful

Joshua 4:19-24 NRV

Hebrews 11:1, 6 NRV

Ephesians 3:20 NRSV



"The principle of believing God anyway"

God has a track record – Remember what God has done because he's faithful

Joshua 4:19-24 NRVS

¹⁹ The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ Those twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal,

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Joshua 4:19-24 NRSV

²¹ saying to the Israelites, “When your children ask their parents in time to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.

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Joshua 4:19-24 NRVS

²³ For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we crossed over,
²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, and so that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

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Hebrews 11:1, 6 NRSV

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Ephesians 3:20 NRSV

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine

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God has a track record – Remember what God has done because he's faithful

We should never forget the faithfulness of God. His promises are yes and Amen. When we know God's not a man that he will lie it should help us to have an anchoring point for our faith to trust him for that which seems impossible.

God can do it if you believe it

Faith and obedience is a medium of exchange in the Spirit world. Faith can make the impossible possible. When you believe God anyway and put your faith to work God can literally blow your mind.

"The principle of believing God anyway"

You need receipts – Believing God anyway will cost you something

Mark 10:17-22 NRSV

Romans 4:1-3, 19-22

faith

it does not
make things easy
it makes them
possible

"The principle of believing God anyway"

You need receipts – Believing God anyway will cost you something

Mark 10:17-22 NRSV

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

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Mark 10:17-22 NRSV

¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

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Mark 10:17-22 NRSV

²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

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Romans 4:1-3, 19-22

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness."

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Romans 4:1-3, 19-22

¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

²² Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

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You need receipts – Believing God anyway will cost you something

The challenge of having receipts is it may call for you to go all in.

To be all in and follow Jesus and believe God anyway is like a poker player that bets several hundreds of thousands of dollars on one hand.

They know it's all or nothing.

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❖ The Take Away for “The principle of believing God anyway”

1. You have to do the hard thing
2. You can't quit
3. You have to remember God's faithfulness
4. You can't get there without it costing you something