

# A Pastor's Heart

## Encouragement from Pastor McGill

### Genesis 22:1-2

*And it came to pass after these things, that God did test Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*

### Why This Test?

Have you ever found yourself wondering why you are going through a particular test? I asked God the question: God why am I going through THIS test. Why can't I have a different test? Why must I go through this one? The scripture is very clear that God tests his servants. We all will be tried and tested for a 3 fold purpose. First, so that we know where we are in our faith. Second, so that God will have evidence to present in our defense. There will be those who will be present on judgment day that will wonder why you are receiving such rewards from God. Abraham called God, The Judge of all the earth in Genesis 18:25. Since He is the Judge, He must have evidence of your faithfulness and obedience to silence the opposition. Third, so that we grow personally and continue to bear fruit for the Kingdom. We must remember that a test is not a bad thing. A test is used by the manufacturer as a mechanism to prove the authenticity of a thing. The manufacturer knows the kinds of tests that need to be conducted and knows what the thing tested can handle. God is our creator and knows what we can handle. He will not allow us to be tested above what we are able to handle. God also knows who to test. Only Abraham could handle Abraham's test. If you only had one son that you had waited on for 25 years and after he had grown up and God asked you to sacrifice him as a burnt offering, would you do it? That's why God didn't give this test to you. Could you have handled Job's test or Daniel's test or Peter or Paul's test? Of course not, we are all made differently and we do not all respond to life's issues the same. One thing is for certain, you can handle your test. You are going through what you are going through because you can. God constructed you to be able to withstand the stress, strain and pull of this test. If you have ever watched an NFL football game you have seen grown men who weigh over two and three hundred pounds chasing a brown oblong shaped ball that weighs 14 to 15 ounces. They kick the ball, spike the ball, fight over the ball and put all their weight on the ball and yet the ball does not deflate. Why? The manufacturer of the football placed more internal pressure inside the ball than any external pressure that the ball would face on the football field. This is what God does with us. He will never place us on a field where we could not withstand the pressure and succeed. Greater is He than is in us than he that is in the world. You are going through this test because you can. The material that you are made can withstand the pressure. You are manufactured for greatness. I know it gets difficult at times when you are serving God. This is what the scripture calls the trying of your faith. When this process is finished it produces patience and this causes your work to be perfect. Glorify God today and praise your way through this test. Make it a great day.

### Blessings and Peace

*Pastor McGill*