

FAITH, IN THE TESTING OF TIME

(Genesis 22; Job 1:8-9; I Peter 1: 7)

Blessed is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation, **for when he has stood the test and been approved**, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12).

“For when he has stood the test and been approved”, there will be a crown waiting for him, the crown of life which has promised by God Himself to those who love Him, shown in action of obedience, endurance. There are five types of crowns found in the Word of God: (1) **the incorruptible crown 1 Corinthians 9:24-25; (2) the crown of rejoicing 1 Thessalonians 2:19; (3) the crown of righteousness II Timothy 4:7-8; (4) the crown of life James 1:12; Revelation 2:10; (5) crown the crown of glory I Peter 5:2-4.**

The crown of life is the crown that will be given to those who endure trials and martyrdom for their faith. “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

In his testing of faith, the Patriarch Abraham, at the voice of Yahweh, answered, “Here I am”; here I am to listen and to do what You want me to do; here I am to listen and not to question You why; Speak Lord, I am listening! “Take **your son, your only son, whom you love** and go to the region of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you” (v.2). This was God’s command for Abraham. **Take your son, the only son, the son whom you love** and sacrifice him upon the altar. Of course, Abraham had another son at the time, Ishmael but he was not the son of the promise; neither the son Abraham loved. By faith he trusted God’s promise of making a great nation out of that only son; and his obedience, sprouting from faith, brought the belief of the resurrection of his son. Here I am! On the third day, he saw beyond the place for the sacrifice of his son; he saw the place for salvation for mankind, where God would provide the Lamb, the only Lamb that would take the sins of the world; yes, through His Son, His only Son, whom He loved. “For God so loved the world that

He gave His only begotten Son". As Abraham was going through the test of his faith, God was showing the world of yesterday the place where He would give His Son as a sacrifice for their sins. Abraham was faithful even unto death of his son; God's purpose was accomplished and he was blessed. Through the righteous seed of Abraham, God brought His Son to the world. And as a result of his obedience, God said, "Since you have done this and have not withheld or begrudged you son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants like the stars of the heavens and like the sand of the seashore. And your Seed will possess the gate of His enemies, **and in your Seed (Yahshua) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, and [by Him] bless themselves, because you have heard and obeyed My voice (v17-18). Here I am!**

Be listening my friend, to be able to hear God's voice and to be able to say, "Here I am" to do what You want me to do. Perhaps, He wants you and me to bring to the altar that of great importance to us, as in our children; perhaps we are holding them from going through the process of sanctification; whatever it may be, let go and let God be God!

Job, on the journey of testing of his faith, said, "though He slay me ,[yet will I wait for and trust Him I will wait on Him] (13:15); make me recognize and know my transgression and my sin (13:23b); For I know that my Redeemer and vindicator lives, and at last He will stand upon the earth, and after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh or without it I shall see God. . .And my eyes shall behold Him, and not as a stranger (19:25-27). At the end of his trials, he answered God and said, "I had heard of You [only] by the hearing of the ear, **but now my eye sees You. Therefore I loathe [my words] and abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes" (42:5-6).**

How does one know when he/she has passed the test of faith? When one endures everything with perseverance and patience; and at the end of his/her life will be able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the [victor's] crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will award to me and recompense me on that day" (II Timothy 4:7-8).

When we pass through the valley of sufferings or through the testing of our faith, let's remember the words of the apostle Peter, "Be exceedingly glad on this account, though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials, **and suffer temptation, so that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested, which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire to redound to praise and glory and honor when Yahshua Messiah is revealed**" (I Peter 1:7). The suffering will be only for a short time, for "the sufferings of this present time are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us" (Rom. 8:18)! Praise the Lord that His work of sanctification carries a weight of eternal value in us and for us and His promise for us is that nothing can separate us from His love! Our sufferings then should lead us to Him, and not away from Him.

THINK ABOUT IT!

I am Jacinta, for Light from the Word Ministry.