

July 15, 2018
Series: Faith Powered
Sermon Title: *Tested Faith*

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 11:17-19 (NRSV)

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” ¹⁹He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Big Idea:

Seeing what we believe.

An IMPOSSIBLE test

Genesis 22:1-2 (NRSV) ¹After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “*HERE I AM.*” ²He 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.”

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

An IRONIC declaration

Genesis 22:3-8 (NRSV) ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and *LAI D IT ON HIS SON* Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac 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?” ⁸Abraham said, “*GOD HIMSELF WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB* for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV) ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

An APPROPRIATE commemoration

Genesis 22:9-14 (NRSV) ⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “*HERE I AM*.” ¹²He 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.” ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place “*THE LORD WILL PROVIDE*”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Challenge Questions:

Where can you exercise your faith this week?

What will you declare in the darkest moments of your life?

How will you remember that the Lord has provided all you need?

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