

Patiently Enduring *The Time Test* *Part II*



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The Time Test

The purpose of “*The Time Test*” is to give the person being tested an opportunity to grow in faith.

God wants us to learn to trust for His timing and provision instead of manipulating the outcome to fit our current state of immaturity.

1 3 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.

1 4 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Hebrews 5:13-14, NLT

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

James 1:22-24, NLT

Abraham Flunked the Time Test

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

Genesis 15:1-3, NKJV

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:4-6

Abraham Flunked the Time Test

- ☐ Abraham wasn't ready to receive the promises of God.
- ☐ The first test he flunked coming out the gate was he took Lot his nephew with him when he left Ur.
- ☐ The second test he flunked; he was afraid that God did not have enough power to protect him from the Egyptians concerning Sarah.

Abraham Flunked the Time Test

- ☐ The third test he flunked, he allowed Sarah to convince him to lay with Hagar, Sarah's handmaid (Eleven years after God promised he'd father many nations).
- ☐ When we flunk "The Time Test" we have to take the test again and we delay the process.
- ☐ Abraham had to wait because he needed to work out some internal issues.

Abraham's Process Prepared Him

6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!"
And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Genesis 22:6-8, (NKJV)

The master key to passing “The Time Test” is staying connected to the faith process and being honest with ourselves as we are being tested or taking “The Time Test” examination.

John 15:1-3, NLT

- 1 I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.
- 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.
- 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

John 15:4-6, NLT

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned."

John 15:7-8, NLT

7 “But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.

This brings great glory to my Father.”