

29 June 2014 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 22:1–14; Romans 6:12–23; Matthew 10:40–42.



Theme: *Grace Tools* – Romans 6:13, “...present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as instruments of righteousness* to God. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but **under grace**....”



I. GOD TESTS HIS TOOLS.

Genesis 22:1-2, “Sometime later **God tested Abraham**. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “**Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him** there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Romans 6:19, “Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now **offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness**...”

1 Peter 1:7, “These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—**may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed**.”

James 1:2-4, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that **the testing of your faith produces perseverance**. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything**.”

Illus. Jesus in the wilderness. From Fullness to Power. Luke 4:1-14.



II. GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS TOOLS.

Genesis 22:13-14, “Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, “**On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.**” **2**

Corinthians 12:9, “My **grace is sufficient** for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”



III. God REWARDS His tools.

Genesis 22:16-18, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **I will surely bless you** and make **your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky** and as the sand on the seashore. **Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies**, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Matthew 25:21, “**Well done, good and faithful servant!** You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Oh Lord, You're beautiful; Your face is all I seek; For when Your eyes are on this child Your grace abounds to me. I wanna to take Your word and shine it all around But first help me to just, live it Lord; And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown, For my reward is giving glory to You

*Who's Who
in History*

CONCLUSION: Hebrews 11:17-19, “By faith **Abraham**, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had **embraced the promises** was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.”
May we be such tools of grace in God’s hands.