

TESTED

Part 3: The Test of Belief

Hebrews 11:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Miracle – a definition:

A short course on **miracles**:

- Miracles demonstrate God's _____. (Mt 9:33, Jer 32:27, Mt 19:26)
- Miracles create _____. (Ex 14:31, John 2:21, 4:48, 20:30-31)
- Miracles inspire _____. (Deut 10:21, 1Sam 12:24, Luke 1:49)
- Miracles confirm _____. (Mk 16:20, Rom 15:19, Heb 2:4)
- Many miracles are _____. (Job 5:9, 37:5, Eccl 8:17, Psa 72:18, Rom 11:33)
- God still does the miraculous _____! (Psa 77:14, Eph 3:2-21)

3 tests of belief

1. The _____ test

Genesis 15:1-4 (ESV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

Will I settle for _____?

2. The _____ test

Genesis 16:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." **And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.**

Will I try to _____?

“D.I.Y. faith” is almost always marked by ...

3. The _____ test

Genesis 17:1-8 (ESV)

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for **I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.** ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And **I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.**”

Genesis 18:10-14 (ESV)

¹⁰ The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Will I trust God fully _____?

Guidelines for believers today:

1. Choose to believe in _____!
2. Never let fear (the opposite of faith) cause you to _____ for less than God’s best for you!
3. Patiently _____ and trust God to _____.
4. Build all of your life on _____ in God.