

answer key.

Four Tests of a Real Believer

FOUR TEST EVERY BELIEVER WILL TAKE:

TEST #1 A MAJOR CHANGE.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV) *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*

MAJOR TEST #2 A DELAYED PROMISE.

Hebrews 11:9 (NIV) *By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.*

A faithful believer will wait for God's timing even though he doesn't know when.

TEST #3 AN IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM.

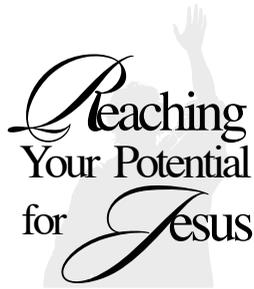
Hebrews 11:11 (NIV) *And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.*

Genesis 18:9 (NIV) *"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. 10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" 13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." 15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."*

TEST #4 A SENSELESS TRAGEDY.

Hebrews 11:17 (NIV) *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, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.*

Hebrews 11:19 (NIV) *Abraham reasoned...*



sermon notes.

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A faithful believer will wait for God's _____ even though he doesn't know when.

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personal growth homework.

These personal growth homework questions are designed to be used in a small group or as an individual in order for you to delve deeper in the message.

1. Start by reading Hebrews 11:8-12. How would you feel if God told you to pack everything up because you were moving, but didn't tell you where? Why do you think Abraham didn't question God?
2. Notice that Abraham immediately obeyed God. Our problem is that we demand an explanation for everything. Do you think this has anything to do with the times we live in?
3. Abraham had to wait on God to fulfill his promises. Have you ever had to wait on God and his schedule when you prayed for something? How long did you wait? How did you keep trusting God during the waiting period?
4. What impossible problem are you facing right now? Is it difficult for you to trust God without seeing the big picture and understanding his purpose?
5. How do you feel about the statement, "In order for God to use you to your full potential, you have to trust his purpose even in the senseless tragedies?"
6. What tests from God do you still need to pass to be used by him to your full potential?