



THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him. These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning. Along the way, your "trust muscle" will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy. Let's take the journey together.

ABRAHAM – Stepping Out – Trusting the Unseen Road

Nothing in the world works without trust. Trust is established through relationship. Who do you trust? Who do you follow?

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

May 15, 2025

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-6; Genesis 15:1-6; Genesis 22:1-14

Music: George Strait-The Breath You Take - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdKMnWEOUNg>

Videos: Old Testament Summary - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/old-testament-tanak/>

The Man Behind '127 Hours' Explains Doing the Unthinkable - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPA07bP-bDE>

Resources: *Hitchhiking with Prophets – A Ride through the Salvation Story of the Old Testament* by Chad Bird

Trust – Knowing When to Give It, When to Withhold It, How to Earn It, and How to Fix It When It Gets Broken in Life and Business by Dr. Henry Cloud

ABRAHAM'S CALL: Leave the Known for the Unknown.

1. _____ → Trust Requires Letting Go of Control. God calls Abraham to leave his country, family, and security to go to an unknown land. Trust means surrendering the familiar for the unknown, believing God's plan is better than our own. Genesis 12:1-4.
2. _____ → Trust Means Waiting Without Answers. God promises Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, despite his old age and Sarah's barrenness. Trust is forged in the waiting. Genesis 15:1-6.
3. _____ → Trust Involves Radical Obedience, Even When It Costs. God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac—the promised son. Trust is proven in action. Genesis 22:1-14.

ABRAHAM'S TEST: Proving Trust!

1. _____ → Tests revolve around what is most important to you. What do you find your identity in? What do you find your security in? That's your Isaac!
2. _____ → If God gives you a dream, and the dream comes to life and God shows up in it, and then the dream dies, it may be that God wants to see what is more important to you—the dream or him.
3. _____ → Do you find your identity in *who you are* or *whose you are*? What do you need to give up?
4. _____ → The harder you have to work for something, the harder it is to give it up.

The 5 Essentials of Trust

1. **Understanding**
You trust people who 'get you.' They listen, empathize, and validate your perspective without quick fixes.
2. **Motive**
Trust is built when the other person's heart is for you, not just for their own interests. You feel safe when someone genuinely wants your good.
3. **Ability**
Good intentions aren't enough. We trust people who are competent—who have the skills, wisdom, or experience to follow through.
4. **Character**
You trust those who do the right thing when it costs them. Integrity, humility, and consistency over time shape deep trust.
5. **Track Record**
Trust is strengthened when someone has shown up again and again—when they've proven themselves trustworthy through real-life situations.



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MOTIVE: The Second Essential of Trust

1. _____ → What is the motive behind the connection. Motive is the second essential of trust, and it asks the question: Why is this person engaging with me? Are they for me, or are they for themselves?
2. _____ → People can do the right thing with the wrong motive. True trust is built when we sense that someone genuinely has our best interest at heart. They aren't using us to get something or manipulating us for their own gain.
"True love has the motive and intent of first doing no harm, but more than that, looking out for the good of the other person or party." – Dr Henry Cloud.

In the context of God and Abraham, God's motive was always Abraham's good—even when the instructions were hard to understand.

Take Action! Journal This!

Three Key Questions to Assess Motive:

1. Do they genuinely celebrate my wins, or do they feel threatened by them?
2. Do they keep my best interests in mind, even when it costs them?
3. Are they consistent in both private and public interactions?

SCRIPTURE – The Message

Genesis 12:1-6 - 1 God told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you." **2** I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make you famous; you'll be a blessing. **3** I'll bless those who bless you; those who curse you I'll curse. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you. **4** So Abram left just as God said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. **5** Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot with him, along with all the possessions and people they had gotten in Haran, and set out for the land of Canaan and arrived safe and sound. **6** Abram passed through the country as far as Shechem and the Oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites occupied the land.

Genesis 15:1-6 - 1 After all these things, this word of God came to Abram in a vision: "Don't be afraid, Abram. I'm your shield. Your reward will be grand!" **2** Abram said, "God, Master, what use are your gifts as long as I'm childless and Eliezer of Damascus is going to inherit everything?" **3** Abram continued, "See, you've given me no children, and now a mere house servant is going to get it all." **4** Then God's Message came: "Don't worry, he won't be your heir; a son from your body will be your heir." **5** Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!" **6** And he believed! Believed God! God declared him "Set-Right-with-God."

Genesis 22:1-14 - 1 After all this, God tested Abraham. God said, "Abraham!" "Yes?" answered Abraham. "I'm listening." **2** He said, "Take your dear son Isaac whom you love and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I'll point out to you." **3** Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants and his son Isaac. He had split wood for the burnt offering. He set out for the place God had directed him. **4** On the third day he looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5** Abraham told his two young servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going over there to worship; then we'll come back to you." **6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac his son to carry. He carried the flint and the knife. The two of them went off together. **7** Isaac said to Abraham his father, "Father?" "Yes, my son." "We have flint and wood, but where's the sheep for the burnt offering?" **8** Abraham said, "Son, God will see to it that there's a sheep for the burnt offering." And they kept on walking together. **9** They arrived at the place to which God had directed him. Abraham built an altar. He laid out the wood. Then he tied up Isaac and laid him on the wood. **10** Abraham reached out and took the knife to kill his son. **11** Just then an angel of God called to him out of Heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes, I'm listening." **12** "Don't lay a hand on that boy! Don't touch him! Now I know how fearlessly you fear God; you didn't hesitate to place your son, your dear son, on the altar for me." **13** Abraham looked up. He saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** Abraham named that place God-Yireh (God-Sees-to-It). That's where we get the saying, "On the mountain of God, he sees to it."

"The Breath You Take" By George Strait

He looks up from second base, dad's up in the stands
He saw the hit, the run, the slide, there ain't no bigger fan
In the parking lot after the game
He said, "Dad, I thought you had a plane to catch?"
He smiled and said, "Yeah, son, I did"
But life's not the breath you take, the breathing in and out
That gets you through the day, ain't what it's all about
You just might miss the point trying to win the race
Life's not the breaths you take but the moments that take your breath
away
Fast forward fifteen years and a thousand miles away
Boy's built a life, he's got a wife and a baby due today
He hears a voice saying, "I made it son"
Says, "I told you dad, you didn't have to come"

He smiles and says, "Yeah, I know you did"
But life's not the breath you take, the breathing in and out
That gets you through the day, ain't what it's all about
You just might miss the point trying to win the race
Life's not the breaths you take but the moments that take your breath
away
Just like it took my breath when she was born
Just like it took my breath away when dad took his last that morn
Life's not the breath you take, the breathing in and out
That gets you through the day, ain't what it's all about
Just might miss the point if you don't slow down the pace
Life's not the breaths you take but the moments that take your breath
away

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