

[Does God Know Everything?](#)

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At one time I thought God knew EVERYTHING, I mean absolutely everything! By “at one time” I really mean most of my life. At times this felt like a relief, you know, don’t worry, God knows and it will be o.k. Other times (probably most) this belief was down-right scary! All of my thoughts? Forget everything I did which is bad enough, but every thought? Speaking for myself only, that is bad news, I have ‘probably’ done some pretty nasty things to others in my thoughts. Not good.

There is a passage in the old testament which I have heard in more sermons than I have probably read it myself. It is one which many believers just breeze over. One of those “I really do not understand this” verses. God said it and God knows all so it must be o.k. or wow, God was really harsh here! You know, the verse that you never bring up in conversation with your non-believing friends or family.

So, I do not want to reveal all of my thoughts or beliefs on the topic but I just want to bring attention to a possible viewpoint here. Just something to think about.

Genesis 22:7-12 NRSV

(7) Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

(8) Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

(9) When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

(10) Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

(11) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

(12) He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; **for now I know that you fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

The standard teaching is that God really knew Abraham’s heart already but God wanted Abraham to be tested so that he would know his own heart. God also wanted to show Abraham who God is to him. God is faithful, God will take care of Abraham, God wants Abraham to follow him without question and so on. But, have you ever stopped and thought this through?

Here is old man Abraham who left his home to follow God. Abraham has been through several ordeals. Abraham is certainly a man of great faith; in many ways but not consistently. Think about Sarah who’s faithful husband basically offered her up to a foreign king to do with as the king pleased, in ways we might not want to imagine, because Abraham was afraid for his life. What about Sodom and Abraham’s questioning of God’s purpose; he basically accuses God of planning to destroy righteous followers. God chose Abraham to father a great nation of people who were to be the voice, the hands, the feet, and the love of God in the world. No small task! Is Abraham the really the right guy? What could possibly

prove to God that Abraham was in this for the long haul, for the right reasons and the one who would be faithful to God's purpose? The same thing that God would one day do.

After all Abraham had been through in waiting for his promised son, God asks Abraham to kill Isaac! Imagine wanting a child so bad, it takes many years and trials, tears, and when he finally comes the love you have is immense and unquestionable. What would you be willing to do for God with that child? Isaac is no infant at this point, Abraham has developed a strong bond with Isaac. I am quite sure that God never intended for Abraham to take the sacrifice to its full extent, but God did want to *know, would Abraham do this?*

For all God had asked of Abraham so far, this was the true test. Abraham had given God reason to *doubt*. Can God *doubt*?

So what is the question we should ask? If God already knew Abraham was the right choice then why would God put a man whom God loves through such an ordeal? That has always been my question, what kind of God is he? God promises Abraham a son, God makes Abraham wait, God gives Abraham the son, God asks Abraham to offer up his beloved son as a sacrifice.

The answer for me was always "God knows everything, we should just listen, do, and keep our mouths shut and *NEVER* question!" I have two thoughts for you on this passage. First, does God put us through undo trials if God already knows our hearts and the outcome, and if this is so, what kind of God does this make God to you? Life is a trial, for most of us, why? Secondly, is God really all knowing all of the time? There are other examples in the old testament that suggest God may *not* be all knowing all of the time. What?! How is this possible? How great do you think God is? I happen to think God is the absolute greatest, so how could I possibly even suggest that God may not know everything?

Genesis 22:14-18 NRSV

(14) So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

(15) The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

(16) and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

(17) I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

(18) ***and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.***"

What was Abraham's response? I know Abraham was not afraid to question God as he did so before, boldly. Verses 16 through 18 tell a huge story! Abraham was an amazing man to me, a man of unspeakable faith, trust, courage, and love for God. I must believe that Abraham thought no ill of God, Abraham believed and knew God would make good on His promise. When God said "*NOW I KNOW*" God was in no way be deceitful! I fully believe that God truly desired to know, because God was not sure!

For many this thought is unthinkable. It used to be so for me. I have learned that God is not in a box and neither am I; because God never wanted me in a box.

If I can stay faithful, a big question because I am only a man, I will continue this thought soon!