

Authentic Spiritual Growth 2

Why is learning to (really) trust God so traumatic?!

Gerald May says building trust in God involves, like many learning processes, *repeated risks* (of faith).

But real risks of faith can occur only in those areas of life where I feel most vulnerable. For each level of trust I achieve, a new, higher step is offered to me by God. True faith choices therefore *always* feel like risks.

“Each choice remains difficult; what really becomes conditioned in this process is simply our willingness and readiness to *take* the risks of faith. They never stop feeling like risks.” - *G. May*

As I read this, I thought of Abraham. Along his life journey God gave him increasingly challenging opportunities to grow spiritually. In some, he did well and advanced, as when he obeyed God and left the land of his forefathers. In others, he failed and regressed. As when, fearing for his life, Abraham lied by saying Sarah was not his wife.

Eventually God led him to the most intense challenge in his life: Would he trust God's incomprehensible command to kill Isaac, his only son. Abraham passed this test, finding God's unexpected provision of a ram, and was commended by God. (*Gen. 22*)



Coffee/tea thought: To take the risk of trusting God usually feels uncomfortable, and often very scary. But acting in faith comes no other way. If I can be certain of the outcome (read "have it my way") it isn't true faith.

John

Ref: *Gerald May, M.D., ADDICTION AND GRACE (1991)*

真实的灵命长进2

为何学习信靠神这样痛苦？

杰拉德·梅说建立对神的信心，就像许多的学习过程一样，要不断冒险。

但真实的冒险是在那些我自己生活中最薄弱的环节上。当我的信心增加时，神总是把我带到更新更深的地步。所以真实的信心总是像在冒险。

“每个选择都很难，这个过程实在取决于我是否愿意及预备好了要冒信心的险。它们总像是在冒险一样。”——杰拉德·梅

当我读到这里，我想到亚伯拉罕。在他的一生中神不断给他灵命成长的机会。有一些他得胜前进了，比如他顺服神，离开他列祖的地界。另一些，他失败退后了，比如他为保命说撒拉不是他的妻子。

最后神领他面对他一生最大的挑战：他是否愿意相信神无法理喻的命令去杀以撒，他的独生子。亚伯拉罕得胜了，发现神出人意料的预备，一头山羊，并得了神的称许（创22）。

随想：冒险去信靠神总是让人不安及害怕。但操练信心别无他法。如果我确定结果如我所愿，那就不叫信心了。

史建恩