

Trials – 3

Life is full of trials and testing

Trials are essential to spiritual growth – Faith

Each trial is built on the trial prior to it

When we embrace the plan of God and understand that what we say, think and do as we go through the trial affects each trial from there forward

James 1:2-4, 19

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; NKJV

Thoughts – words – character – actions (faith) – life results
We must learn to put to death our old nature and speak the truth of God's word to get through the Trials of life

The fire of the trial is the very thing that tests our faith and brings it to perfection

We need faith and patience

Hebrews 6:12

12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. NKJV

No Slide: James 3:2-12 (Last session)

- When we meditate on the Word of God it changes the things we think in our heart
- We speak what we believe
- Hearing the word produces faith – Romans 10:17
- Faith is the corresponding action to the Word of God
- The tongue controls the way in which we live
- Right believing – right speaking – right living (faith)
- If the tongue can defile the whole body
- The tongue can bless the whole body

Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- Grace – exceedingly abundantly
- Faith is the “Power that works in us”
- Faith is an action
- A corresponding action to the Word of God
- Healing – lay hands and pray
- Provision – give and it will be given
- Am I willing to give what I have and believe God will meet my need? – fishes and loaves

James 2:21

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? NKJV

Facing your ultimate test

When we look at the story of Abraham sacrificing his son on the altar it seems a bit in-humane

Why would God grant them a child and then require him back?

The fact of the matter is that Isaac was not actually sacrificed

Remember the whole Bible is the “Story” of God redeeming us

This event is one of many types or shadows of Gods sacrifice – His only Son Jesus

The whole covenant that God made with Abraham was based on “Him”

Talk about covenant (Blood Brothers) – both parties would walk through the bloody carcasses

Genesis 15:12-18 NKJV

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.

(Vs. 13-16 Prophecy concerning future of Israel – Slavery)

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a **smoking oven** and a **burning torch** that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram.

- Covenant: what’s mine is yours and what’s yours is mine
- It is a place where the ground is level
- Only God could keep both parts of the covenant

So when Abraham brought Isaac up on mount Moriah He new God would meet the need because He already made a covenant where “He” fulfilled both parties

Hebrews 6:13 NKJV

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.

Hebrews 11:17-19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. NKJV

- The Bible says in **Genesis 22:1** that God tested Abraham
- God will never test your faith by asking you to give up something He is unable to raise back up!

The word that is used here for test means:

“To assay (test) a metal by placing it under fire”

There are 2 words that are used in the New Testament that have the meaning “to test” or “to prove”

dokimazo, peirazo

1 Corinthians 3:13

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will **test** each one's work, of what sort it is. NKJV

Romans 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. NKJV

2 Corinthians 8:8

8 I speak not by commandment, but I am **testing** the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. NKJV

2 Corinthians 13:5

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? NKJV

1 Thessalonians 5:21

21 **Test** all things; hold fast what is good. NKJV

In these examples our faith, love, and mental thoughts are tested and “proved” then we pass the tests and become “approved” of God

“Surviving and overcoming a severe test from Satan places you in the category of an overcoming believer”
– Perry stone – There’s a crack in your armor

1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. NKJV

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. NKJV – Spiritual maturity

- God loves us all but we don't all get the car keys

Jesus feeding the multitudes

John 6:5-6

5b "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. NKJV

- Jesus new what He would do?
- This was a test to see if Philip had faith for a miracle
- The Lord tests us to expose areas of weakness that the enemy could use down the road
- Allow God to use every test to build faith
- Don't keep failing the same test

There is a difference between the Lord testing our faith and a test initiated by Satan

When the Lord test our faith it is to reveal the strength of our faith and to purify our minds and spirits by burning out the excessive dross that is in the precious metal

2 Timothy 2:20-21 NKJV

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Once we experience a trial of our faith and pass the test we will emerge as gold that was tried in the fire

1 Peter 1:7

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. NKJV

When the Devil tests us his purpose is to embarrass us, condemn us or get us to quit

Either way our faith gives us the victory – 1 John 5:4

Jesus is praying for you to overcome – Hebrews 7:25

When Satan came to sift Peter as wheat Jesus said He had prayed that his faith would not fail – Luke 22:31, 32

Let's look at three levels of testing

Common everyday testing – Everyday events that challenge our faith

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. NKJV

Seasonal Testing – trials and temptations that come in cycles – only to return and repeat

Luke 4:13

13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. NKJV

The hour of testing – a major event that Satan uses to pull you away from God and your faith

Revelation 3:10 NKJV

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

We see in the examples of Job's testing (*The Story of Job – the Devil destroys his property and children, and then attacks his health*) as well as Peter's that through Gods restoration process **failure is never final!**

No Slide: John 21:15-17 (3 Times)

15 "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"
"Feed My lambs." "Tend My sheep." "Feed My sheep."
NKJV

Job 42:12

12 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; NKJV