

YOUR FAITH IS ON TRIAL

(JAMES 1:1-4)

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Your faith is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2:8, 9) Allowing the testing of your gift is living Christ's life. (Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 12:2)

ENDURE TESTING WITH PURE JOY. Your Lord is sovereign over all the trials you face. The Holy Spirit in you enables you to have His joy as He, through the testing of your faith, makes you more and more like Jesus. (James 1:1, 2, fn 1:1, fn 1:2, 3, Matthew 5:11, 12, fn 5:3-12, fn 5:11, 12, I Peter 1:5-9, fn 1:6, 7, Romans 8:29, fn 8:29, Romans 15:13) *How could you and will you have joy in the trials you face?*

TESTING CAN PRODUCE PERSEVERANCE. The testing of your faith can produce indignation and anger from your flesh, or it can produce patience, steadfastness, and hope as you allow the Holy Spirit to control you. (James 1:3, fn 1:2-4, II Peter 1:3-9, fn 1:5-9, Romans 5:3, 4, fn 5:3, Matthew 5:38-42, fn 5:38-42, Galatians 5:22, 23, fn 5:22, 23) *Why is perseverance necessary for you to be an effective witness for Christ?*

TESTING CAN BRING MATURITY. The pains of trials can result in bitterness and the absence of faith, or they can result in a deeper intimacy with Jesus and a mature faith. (James 1:4, Hebrew 12:14, 15, fn 12:15, Colossians 1:28, 29, fn 1:28, 29[1st], Romans 12:1, 2, fn 12:1, 2, Philippians 4:10-14, fn 4:10-14) *What would your maturing faith look like to your friends, co-workers, and family?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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