

## Series: Discipleship

### Title: Disciples and the Testings of Life



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*“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve [Hebrew] tribes [scattered abroad among the Gentiles] in the dispersion: Greetings (rejoice)! Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God’s willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind. For such a person ought not to think or expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable and restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides]. Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position [as a born-again believer, called to the true riches and to be an heir of God]; and the rich man is to glory in being humbled [by trials revealing human frailty, knowing true riches are found in the grace of God], for like the flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; its flower falls off and its beauty fades away; so too will the rich man, in the midst of his pursuits, fade away. Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is steadfast under trial and perseveres when tempted; for when he has passed the test and been approved, he will receive the [victor’s] crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:1-12 AMP)*

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jas.1.1-12.AMP>

**James, the brother of our Lord and a disciple of the Lord Jesus, writes to believers everywhere that there will be times when we will come under fire. There will be times when the disciple's faith will be tested by fire through trials and tribulations.**

The scriptures clearly teach that our lives will never be problem-free.

**“Yet man is born for trouble, as surely as sparks fly upward. But as for me, I would seek God; I would lay my cause before God.” (Job 5:7-8 TLV)**

<https://bible.com/bible/314/job.5.7-8.TLV>

**“You have tested us, O God; you have purified us like silver.” (Psalms 66:10 NLT)**

<https://bible.com/bible/116/psa.66.10.NLT>

**“Be not far from me! For trouble is near— there is no one to help.” (Psalms 22:12 TLV)**

<https://bible.com/bible/314/psa.22.12.TLV>

“For what does a man get for all his toil and longing of his heart for which he labors under the sun? **For all his days, his work is pain and grief.** Even at night his mind does not rest. This also is futility.” (Ecclesiastes 2:23 TLV)

<https://bible.com/bible/314/ecc.2.23.TLV>

**“A mortal born of woman, is of few days and full of turmoil.” (Job 14:1 TLV)**

<https://bible.com/bible/314/job.14.1.TLV>

“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. **For our trouble, light and momentary, is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, as we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.**” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 TLV)

<https://bible.com/bible/314/2co.4.16-18.TLV>

**The testing of God has always proven to be a blessing from God.**

Abraham was tested and was blessed.

Job was tested and was blessed.

Hagar was tested and was blessed.

Jesus was tested and was blessed.

**If you want to be blessed, endure the test!**

The believers in this text were going through all kinds of tests.

**I. Rejoice** \_\_\_\_\_.

Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace].

James 1:12 MSG: Anyone who meets a **testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.**

<https://www.bible.com/bible/97/JAS.1.12.MSG>

**II. Relax** \_\_\_\_\_.

“But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will give you wisdom without criticizing you.”

<https://bible.com/bible/105/jas.1.5.NCV>

**Why do we need wisdom?**

- What do you want me to learn from this test?
- What should I do in this test?

**Satan wants to use trouble to defeat us. God wants to use it to develop us.**

**III. Rely** \_\_\_\_\_.

But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [**God’s willingness to help**], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind.

**Psalms 116:7 NCV**

I said to myself, “Relax, because the LORD takes care of you.”

**IV. Refuse** \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is **steadfast under trial and perseveres** when tempted; for when he has passed the test and been approved, **he will receive the [victor's] crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**"

"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace."  
**(1 Peter 4:10 NCV)**

<https://bible.com/bible/105/1pe.4.10.NCV>

"Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me; but He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you [My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough—always available—regardless of the situation]; for [My] power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness." Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ [may completely enfold me and] may dwell in me. So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God's strength]."  
**(2 Corinthians 12:8-10 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/2co.12.8-10.AMP>

**Ask yourself:**

1. Do you need to recommit your life to Christ?
2. Do you need God's wisdom for a test that you are enduring?
3. Do you have a relationship with Christ?

**Answer Key:**

- I. **Rejoice Knowing That God Is Using This Test To Help Me.**
- II. **Relax and Ask God For The Wisdom That He Will Freely Give To Me.**
- III. **Rely on God, Believing That He Can Help Me.**
- IV. **Refuse to Quit Remembering What God Has Promised Me.**

**What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?**

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