

The Testing of our Faith

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Does God test us? Of course He does. God tests us to show us what is really in our hearts. He tests us to bring us closer to Him. Praise the Lord for not allowing us to walk according to our delusions. Amen.

Most of us think of 'testing' only when things are not the way we want them to be. When things are not going right, we think we are being tested, but that is not the only time when God tests us.

Remember our brothers, the Israelites. The Lord allowed them to become powerful and wealthy. The Lord rained down many blessings on them. For a while, everything was going great for them.

The Lord also tests of when things are going 'super' good. Wealth, good health, the 'perfect' job, the new car or new house, all these can be a test from the Lord to show you where your heart really lies.

Will you forget the Lord? Will you forget to thank Him daily and be truly grateful for what He has allowed you to have? In your heart, will you think that you have earned any part of what you have? Will you forget to share your wealth with the brethren? Will you start to place the things of the world before the Lord? Will you place getting the things of the world ahead of seeking the Lord?

These are just a few of the test the Lord gives us to show us what is truly in our hearts. Where does your heart stand? What is most important to you?

We need to examine ourselves daily and ask the Lord to show us the hidden desires of our heart. We need to know what is driving us. Are we dedicated to the Lord or are we seeking our own desires? We need to know the truth.

Of course, the Lord does test us when things are not going the way we want them to. When we are sick, do we go to the Lord first or do we go to the world first and only come to the Lord when the world can not help us?

When we are having problems with another person, do we forget to obey the Lord and do things our way? We need to forgive the person and pray for them. We need to bless them, as the Lord commanded. We need to leave justice in the hands of the Lord, He will repay if there has been an injustice against us. How do we react to testing?

Our hearts need to be focused on the Lord at all times. When things go wrong, we need to be on our knees before the Lord and trust in Him and Him only. No matter what the outcome, we need to praise Him and worship Him as our brother Job did when everything was taken from him.

We need to be careful that the good times do not raise idols in our hearts. We do not want to place anyone or anything ahead of the Lord.

Praise the Lord God of Israel for testing our hearts. May He continue to show us the truth about ourselves. May the Lord open our eyes to see the truth and take away the hardness from our hearts. May He incline our hearts to love Him above everyone and everything. Amen.

1 Kings 8:58 May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands, decrees and regulations he gave our fathers.

Psalms 119:36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Amen and Amen