



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH, JAMES 1:3

COLORADO

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*How can you count it all joy when you encounter many diverse and difficult trials? Submit your life in obedience to the sovereign will of God and allow Him to refine you through the fires of testing, transforming you into the image of His Son Jesus Christ. Trials refine and test our faith, proving it genuine. Every trial is a test of our faith to produce endurance. Enduring through the hardship brings maturity. And maturity is demonstrated through a life lived in obedience to Jesus Christ. Keep your heart focused on the eternal and not the temporal and your joy will be a direct result of the confidence and peace you find in God alone. He has an eternal purpose in all things and will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able to bear! (1 Cor. 10:13)*

### I. "THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH"- JAMES 1:3

*"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." James 1:2-3*

God does not want us to be caught off guard by the difficult times He assures us will be a part of our lives. Rather, He wants us to endure through the hardship to a place of maturity in Christ. God in His infinite love gives us trials to test our faith, to develop us, and to mature us. And so James begins his letter with words that God knows are of utmost value to believers as they bear up under trials. We can count it all joy and that joy results from genuine faith, confidence and peace in God's sovereignty. As James continues, these verses reveal that a true, genuine faith is a faith that endures through trials.

#### A. "KNOWING"— JAMES 1:3A

*"...knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." James 1:3*

"**knowing**" Greek word "**ginosko**," carries the idea of full understanding of something, it's beyond just what is factual, knowing through experience, knowing, understanding more than mere facts.

God wants us to understand with our mind and know for certain that maturity will result from the trials that come our way. This is beyond just knowing the facts, but it is an understanding of the mind that often comes from personal experience that maturity results from trials.

God also wants us to be assured that He will not give us more than we can bear. We must know for certain the words in 1 Corinthians 10:13 are true: "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." Paul uses the

same word for "temptations" here as James does in James 1:3. The word refers to the trials we are called to face, called to endure. God can be trusted completely and He promises He will not allow us to go through more than we can handle.

Sometimes, it seems the adversity we face is more than we can bear. The trial maybe cancer or even the death of a loved one. Does God understand? Indeed, for the words of Hebrews 4:15-16 assures us, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are yet without sin. Let us therefore, draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." We have access to the very throne of God to find grace and mercy in our time of need. Know for certain, God will provide a way of escape, and in choosing His way, we will be able to endure hardship and adversity.

#### B. "THE TESTING..."— JAMES 1:3B

*"...knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." James 1:3*

James uses a different word in verse 3, then "test" in verse 2; but it carries much the same meaning. It refers to the test by which our faith is proven genuine.

"testing" Greek word "**dokimion**," means a test by which anything is proven.

God tests our faith not to see if it is genuine, but rather to prove it genuine. Silver in the ore needs to be purified from impurities or it is of no value. The refining process, the testing that proves or purifies our faith transforms us into the image of Christ and brings about maturity. This refining process of sanctification often requires heat to purify and refine our faith; the fires of adversity and hardship.

#### C. "OF YOUR FAITH"— JAMES 1:3C

*"...knowing that the testing of your faith ..." James 1:3*

Job was a man who endured immense hardship and yet he trusted the Lord with utter confidence. In Job 23:10 he wrote, "He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." What is God testing, what is God refining? Our faith in Him.

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0107

# Colorado

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“faith” Greek word **“pistis,”** means ascent to and confidence in Divine truth and that produces good works.

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Faith means that we are persuaded, we know and believe with absolute confidence in God’s divine truth. The overflow of our faith in Christ is good works. The trials that come our way then are not intended to shake our faith, but increase and deepen our faith and confidence in God.

J. Ronald Blue states in the Knowledge Bible Commentary, page 821, *“Faith is like gold; it stands in the test of fire. Without this approved standard of faith, trials would not yield perseverance. There would only be ashes. True faith, like pure gold, endures, no matter how hot the fire.”*

### D. “PRODUCES ENDURANCE”– JAMES 1:3D

*“...knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.” James 1:3*

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“endurance” Greek word **“hupomone,”** means patient waiting as to things or circumstances. It is associated with hope and refers to the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. **“hupo”** means under and **“mone”** means to abide or remain.

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This word carries with it the idea of remaining or abiding under a load. The very first thing we want to do when we face adversity is run from it. Our prayers are most always asking for God’s deliverance from the hardship rather than seeking His strength to endure the testing and trusting in His sovereign plan of bringing us to maturity in Christ. Endurance is patiently waiting and remaining under the trial or test...*and doing so cheerfully.* We don’t give up, we don’t give in and we don’t get out! We trust that our loving heavenly Father knows exactly what He is doing and will accomplish His will. This isn’t easy to do, but that’s what faith does.

James is saying that the testing *“produces”* this inner quality that does not surrender to circumstances. There is a strength of character represented by endurance. And this quality being produced in us as we remain under the trial is strengthened each time we are tested. William Barclay said this, *“Endurance is the quality that enables a man to stand on his feet in a storm.”*

When adversity smashes into your life and you wonder how God could let this happen, remember James who assures us it is the testing of our faith. Each of us will experience this in our lives. When we encounter adversity, we must understand that God has not brought this to shake and disturb our

faith. If we respond correctly to the testing our loving Father brings, we will find our proven faith producing endurance in our lives. But it requires that we submit and bow the knee to God’s sovereignty, trusting that He knows what He is doing.

Before Christ went to the cross He reminded His disciples with these words from John 16:33, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* Because we are His and He is ours, we can take courage and *we must take courage.* God doesn’t promise the situation we face is good, but He promises to bring good from it. That’s why we can take courage and count it all joy. Often we just need to tighten that *“belt of truth”*. (Ephesians 6:13-14) We need to be reminded of what is true about God and know for certain that God will not give us more than we can bear, He will provide a way of escape and He will produce maturity in our lives. (I Corinthians 10:13)

1 Peter 1:6-8 says, *“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”* Peter reminds us that the *“proof of our faith”* is more precious than the greatest treasure in the world. Part of our problem lies with what we value most. Do we cherish the refining and purifying of our faith in Jesus Christ more than the world’s comfort and pleasure which is only momentary not eternal? Do we see the proof of our faith as Peter does; that which brings God glory and honor? That’s the prize! For Peter continues in 1 Peter 1:9 with these words, *“...obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”* There’s our greatest riches which are eternal...the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls. The cost is worth the prize. Our eternal treasure is of such incredible significance! Is this what we cherish and esteem most in our lives? God does. So take courage!

*Can we think it pleases His loving heart*

*To cause us a moment’s pain?*

*Ab, no, but He sees through the present cross*

*The bliss of eternal gain.*

*So He waited there with a watchful eye*

*With a love that is strong and sure,*

*And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat*

*Than was needed to make it pure.*

*Unknown Author*