

This Is Only a Test

Living Insight

How reliable is your faith? Our faith can only be trusted if it has been tested. Many men and women in the Bible had their faith tested through trials, hardships and difficulties. Many of them were able to pass the test because they had strengthened their faith earlier. How was Job able to endure his long period of pain and suffering without cursing God? How could Abraham offer his son Isaac on an alter without hesitation? How are we to pass the testing of our faith? We can only pass the test when we place our complete confidence in the One who has overcome death.

Grace and Peace through Christ,

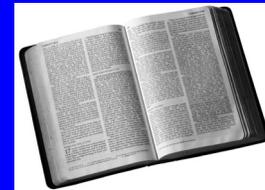
~ Ed

Prayer Requests



Ed Wilson, Minister

James 1:2-4



Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014

Time: 11:00 a.m.

This Is Only a Test

I. How can we find joy in our trials?

A. Trials are not pleasant experiences.

1. The words of James sound strange to us, ***“Count it all joy when you face trials.”***
2. He had a reason for this statement.

B. He knew that God was at work.

1. The Lord wants us to develop strength.
2. We must allow perseverance to finish its work.
3. Our faith is perfected through trials.

C. Our faith must be tested before it can be trusted.

1. God will test our faith through trials.
2. We are commanded to test ourselves.
3. The Lord will test the quality of our work.

II. How Are We Tested as Christians?

A. Our faith is tested through our trials.

1. The Lord tested Abraham and Job.
2. Abraham passed the test through obedience. ~ **Genesis 22:10-12**
3. Job passed the test through perseverance.

B. We are instructed to test ourselves.

1. We need to test (examine) ourselves.
2. We do not see ourselves very well.
~ **2 Corinthians 13:5-6**
3. Is Christ still in us?

C. God will test the quality of our work.

1. It really matters how we work in ministry.
2. Our work will be tested by fire.
3. Be sure to build using the best material.

James 1:2-4

III. Are We Ready for the Test Today?

A. Everyone's faith will be tested.

1. We should pray for wisdom.
2. We must listen carefully to God's word. ~ **James 1:19-20**
3. We must be doers of God's word.

B. Has your faith been refined by fire?

1. Fire purifies gold and silver.
2. How valuable is your faith?

Special Update

Our Seniors' Lunch will be on Saturday, October 25, 2014. Start time will be at 11:00 a.m. at the church building.

All Sunday Morning Sermons are recorded on CD. See Lanzy Minor to request one.