

Why Christians are Tested

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **1 Peter 1:6-9** – “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.”
- B. As a student in school, did you like tests?
1. Tests can create anxiety.
 2. Tests can contribute to feelings of well-being if we pass.
 3. Tests can contribute to feelings of failure if we do not do well.
- C. What is the difference between being **TEMPTED** and being **TESTED**?
1. **TEMPTATION** comes from the devil, and he tempts us to steal, kill, and destroy’ **James 1:13** – “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”
 2. **TESTING** comes from God. He tests us to help us mature, to grow in our trust or dependence on Him, and to refine us (to make us pure and of great value. **James 1:2-3** – “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” A trial is a difficult time. James tells us to consider trials a joy; we should welcome them. Why? Testing develops perseverance and ultimately maturity. Then we can handle anything. This is different than giving in to temptation.
- D. Why are Christians tested? Let us examine four reasons as to why.

TESTING CAN CREATE SURRENDER.

- A. **Psalms 119:67** – “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now I keep Your word.”
- B. Christians are sometimes afflicted in order to encourage their surrender to God and to bring them closer to Him.
- C. Some Christians become spiritually lean and go astray when everything is going well. They depend on their own strength and resources. Example: The rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21.
- D. We must depend on God’s help daily. We must remain in constant fellowship with Him through prayer . . . Bible reading . . . and worship.

TESTING CAN INSURE OUR STABILITY.

- A. **1 Peter 5:10** – “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”
- B. Some Christians are unstable and undependable. They are up and down, in and out, so to speak.
- C. Troubles, trials, and temptations may cause a Christians to become temporarily unstable. However, if they manifest their devotion to God, He will establish them and strengthen them.”
- D. When testing comes, we should look for the reason and endeavor to learn the lesson God is trying to teach us. God always has a purpose for wht He allows. **Romans 8:28** – “”

TESTING CAN INSPIRE OTHERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING.

- A. **Philippians 1:14** – “And most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”
- B. Paul was imprisoned for preaching Christ . . . And He preached Christ boldly. Because he endured bravely when tested, others were inspired to speak the Word of God fearlessly.
- C. God allows Christians today to be tested in order to inspire others. He places confidence in us, for testing is proof of our faith and endurance.
- D. When we are tested, we must not fail God nor disappoint others who may be inspired by our faith to make spiritual progress in their own lives.
Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

TESTING CAN INVOKE OTHERS TO SERVICE.

- A. **Psalms 118:17** – “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
- B. When tested, some want to throw up their hands and quit or just lie down and die. They react by acting self-centered and wallowing in self-pity.
- C. We must accept the challenge when tested. I realize that it is easier said than done. God may be trying to move us to action.
- D. Testing should be used as a stepping stone, not a stumbling block. We must reach out and help others to become what God would have them become.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Why are Christians Tested?
 1. Testing can **CREATE SURRENDER.**
 2. Testing can **INSURE OUR STABILITY.**
 3. Testing can **INSPIRE OTHERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING.**
 4. Testing can **INVOKE OTHERS TO SERVICE.**
- B. Two concluding thoughts: One from Job and the other from David.

1. **Job 23:10** – “But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.” (We will be made better)
2. **Psalm 66:10** – “For You, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.”

C. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation