

Enduring Testing

James 1:2-4 (MSG)

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

Tests describe the means by which the quality or genuineness of something is determined.

Tests can be described as a process to determine the performance or reliability of something before using it.

Believers come out stronger after we have endured through testing.

I. Tests can feel like challenges coming at us from every direction (v.2)

It is easy to misinterpret a season of testing as a consequence for doing something wrong.

Consider *Job 4:8* and *Matthew 4:1-10*

Often, testing is part of God's way to help develop our character.

Consider *Genesis 37:17-18* and *Genesis 39:6-7*

II. Tests help to identify the growth areas that exist in our life.

James 1:3 (MSG) says, *"You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors."*

When growth areas are identified, God will use tests to refine us.

Isaiah 48:10 (CEV) says, *"I tested you in hard times just as silver is refined in a heated furnace."*

The way we respond to testing will help determine how long it will continue.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (TLB) says, *"Do you remember how the Lord led you through the wilderness for all those forty years, humbling you and testing you to find out how you would respond, and whether or not you would really obey him?"*

III. When we know the final outcome, it is easier to endure testing.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NIV) says, *"However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' the things God has prepared for those who love him ¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."*

Enduring testing will ensure we are prepared for God to use us (v.4).

Enduring testing will help us grow to a higher level of spiritual maturity.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV) says, *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways."*