

James 1:12 (NLT)

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Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

“Patiently Enduring Testing”

Part I

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Test (noun)

- 1) A procedure for critical evaluation; a means of determining the presence, quality, or truth of something
- 2) A trial
- 3) A series of questions, problems, or physical responses designed to determine knowledge, intelligence, or ability.

“You’ve probably heard the saying, “Everything happens for a reason.” What people often don’t realize is that sometimes the reason has nothing to do with the situation at hand and everything to do with your response to it.

Life throws us a series of tests. How we handle these test will determine whether we advance to the next level of increase and promotion God has for us, or if we will remain stagnant where we are right now.”

George Davis

“These tests don’t arise in our lives because we’ve done something wrong.

In fact, to the contrary, the presence of these tests reveals we’ve done something right!

The enemy, Satan, comes to challenge, prod, and prove us, to see if we really believe what we say we believe.”

George Davis

Facts About Tests

- Tests tend to come in multiples.
- You may be tested in more than one area at the same time.
- Tests reveal whether a person will continue to trust God or default on their faith.
- The choices you make will determine whether you receive promotion or demotion in God's kingdom.
- When we flunk certain tests, we have to take them over again until we pass them.

Facts About Tests

- Tests reveal our level of commitment to God's kingdom.
- Tests will expose our level of “Spiritual Maturity”.
- Tests reveal the condition of our heart.
- Tests reveal if we love people like God loves us.

Biblical Testing Examples

- **Abraham** – Left his home in Ur of the Chaldees and departed from his family.
- **Abraham** – Told Sara to tell the Egyptians that she was his sister.
- **Jacob** – Conspired with his mother Rebeca to lie to Isaac concerning Esau's birthright.
- **Sampson** – As a Nazirite instructed not to cut his hair, strictly abstain from all intoxicating liquor and avoid strange women.
- **Jonah** – Instructed to go to the wicked city of Nineveh.

Biblical Testing Examples

- Job – Refused to curse God during his season of testing.
- Judas – Betrayed Jesus.
- Peter – Denied Jesus.
- Stephen – While being stoned to death, held on to his faith in Jesus.
- John the Baptist – Beheaded because he refused to stop preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why Does God Allow Tests?

#1 So we can demonstrate the genuineness and strength of the faith He has placed inside of us.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3, NKJV

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed
from faith to faith; as it is written,
“The just shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:17, NKJV

Why Does God Allow Tests?

#2 God allows us to face obstacles so we will toughen up and learn to use the Word He has taught us.

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:3-5, NKJV

Why Does God Allow Tests?

#3 So we will be able to handle spiritual promotion.

**6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor
from the west, nor from the south.**

**7 But God is the judge: he put down one, and set up
another.**

Psalm 75:6-7, NKJV

5 "God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of
God, that He may exalt you in due time.

1 Peter 5:6-, NKJV