

THE TESTS OF FAITH

James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

The Test Of Difficulties

_____ God

Job 1:20 Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship.

21 He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"

22 In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

_____ The Difficulty

Job 3:1 At last Job spoke, and he cursed the day of his birth.

10 Curse that day for failing to shut my mother's womb, for letting me be born to see all this trouble.

11 "Why wasn't I born dead? Why didn't I die as I came from the womb?"

23 Why is life given to those with no future, those God has surrounded with difficulties?

24 I cannot eat for sighing; my groans pour out like water.

25 What I always feared has happened to me. What I dreaded has come true.

26 I have no peace, no quietness. I have no rest; only trouble comes."

_____ The Hard Questions

Job 10:2 I will say to God, 'Don't simply condemn me— tell me the charge you are bringing against me.

3 What do you gain by oppressing me? Why do you reject me, the work of your own hands, while smiling on the schemes of the wicked?

Job 13:23 Tell me, what have I done wrong? Show me my rebellion and my sin.

24 Why do you turn away from me? Why do you treat me as your enemy?

Job 23:2 “My complaint today is still a bitter one, and I try hard not to groan aloud.

3 If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court.

4 I would lay out my case and present my arguments.

5 Then I would listen to his reply and understand what he says to me.

Job 24:1 “Why doesn’t the Almighty bring the wicked to judgment? Why must the godly wait for him in vain?”

Friends Into The Process

Job 2:11 When three of Job’s friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him....

12 When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief.

13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.

Job 42:7 After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has.

8 So take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has.”

Pay _____ To What God Has To Say

Job 40:6 Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind:

7 “Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.

Job 42:1 Then Job replied to the Lord:

2 “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.

3 You asked, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’ It is I —and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me.

4 You said, ‘Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.’

5 I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

6 I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”

Keep Hope Alive

Job 42:10 When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!

1 Peter 1:6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.

7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

2 Corinthians 4:16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.