



THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH, PT. 2

Restoration Sunday

PSALM 105:19-22 NKJV

Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested him. 20 The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. 21 He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions, 22 To [a]bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.

How God Test our faith

1. By giving us difficult or impossible assignments or task; Like when God asked Noah to build an ark to protect him and his family from flood, when it had never rained on the earth. Or when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac. In this type of test, Faith is facing the future confidently without knowing what that task may be. Gen.6:13-17; 22:1-2; Heb.11:7.
2. By bringing a major change into our lives that creates uncertainty; Like when God told Mary she will be pregnant without knowing a man. And told Joseph to marry a woman not pregnant by him. In this case faith is following the leading of Christ without knowing where or what the outcome may be. Lk.1:26-38; Mt.1:18-22

How God Test our faith

3. By a delayed promise

- a. Like when God promised Abraham a child and it took 25 years before that child came. Abraham kept on asking when. Gen. 15:2
- b. Like when Lazarus was sick and his sisters Mary and Martha sent for Jesus and he delayed coming until Lazarus was dead and buried for four days. They must have asking when will the master come. Jn. 11:5-6; Ps. 119:82,84;
- c. If you are going through challenges and have been asking the question when, Remember that Faith is waiting for God's timing without knowing "when." Job 14:14; 2 Pet. 3:9

GENESIS 15:2 NKJV

But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I [a]go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

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JOHN 11:5-6 NKJV

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

PSALM 119:82 NKJV

*My eyes fail from searching Your word,
Saying, “When will You comfort me?”*

PSALM 119:84

*How many are the days of Your
servant? When will You execute
judgment on those who persecute me?*

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JOB 14:14 NKJV

*If a man dies, shall he live again? All
the days of my hard service I will
wait, Till my change comes.*

2 PETER 3:9 NKJV

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward [a]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

How God Test our faith

4. By an unsolvable problem. This is the how test
 - a. Like Abraham and Sarah who at 99 and 89 years respectively were expecting to be parents but do not know how since all their reproductive systems had packed up several decades earlier.
Gen.18:10-12
 - b. Like when the Angel told Mary she was going to have a child without knowing a man she had to ask the how question because this was an unsolvable problem. Lk.1:34-37; 2 Kgs.7:1-2
 - c. If you have an unsolvable problem and you are wondering how, remember faith is expecting a miracle without knowing how. Remember with God nothing is impossible.

GENESIS 18:10-12 NKJV

And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and [a]Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

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LUKE 1:34-37 NKJV

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I [a]do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

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2 KINGS 7:1-2 NKJV

Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'Tomorrow about this time a [a]seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.' " 2 *So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."*

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How God Test our faith

5. By a senseless loss. This is the why test.

- a. Like when job lost his business, his family, his status and his health suddenly and he could not understand why. He was a righteous man; he was an upright man; he feared and served the Lord; even God testified that there was no one like him in all the East. Yet he lost everything suddenly; a senseless loss. Job 1:8
- b. Maybe you have lost a loved one, a job, a marriage etc and you are wondering why. Remember that faith is trusting God's purposes and plans without knowing why. Faith is trusting God when it does not make sense. Job 13:15

JOB 1:8 NKJV

Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you [a]considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and [b]shuns evil?”

How God Test our faith

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JOB 13:15 NKJV

*Though He slay me, yet will I trust
Him. Even so, I will defend my own
ways before Him.*

How God Test our faith

6. By a prolonged pain. This is the “how long” test.
 - a. Like Apostle Paul who had a pain that won't go away.
2Cor.12:7-9; 4:8-10; 2Cor.11:23-27
 - b. Apostle Paul may have cried how long Lord, but he persisted through his pain to fulfill his ministry. Php.3:14
 - c. The psalmist King David also cried how long? Ps.6:3; 13:1;
 - d. Maybe you have a chronic pain that will not go away.
Remember Faith is persisting through the pain without knowing “how long.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9 NKJV

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to [a]buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-10 NKJV

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body

2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-27 NKJV

Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness

How God Test our faith

6. By a prolonged pain. This is the “how long” test.
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 - b. Apostle Paul may have cried how long Lord, but he persisted through his pain to fulfill his ministry. Php.3:14
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PHILIPPIANS 3:14 NKJV

*I press toward the goal for the prize of
the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

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PSALM 6:3 NKJV

My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O Lord—how long?

PSALM 13:1

*How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?*

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ALTAR CALL

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and I need you to save me. I believe you died for me and rose up on the third day that I may be justified. Today, Lord Jesus, I confess and repent of all my sins; I forsake them; forgive me Lord Jesus; come into my heart Lord Jesus; be my Lord and savior; from today I promise to serve you in the name of Jesus

Contact us – Shilohttop@gmail.com or www.shilohttop.com

COLOSSIANS 4:12 NKJV

Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and [a]complete in all the will of God.

Prayer 1

Father in the name of Jesus, help me and every member of this church, to understand that delays are not denials; to recognize the key to that unsolvable problem; to handle any major change with faith, the senseless loss with hope and the prolonged pain with patience; help each one of us to be obedient to Your instructions, to respond to every test with faith and to stand perfect and complete in all Your will in the name of Jesus.
Col.4:12; 2Pet.3:9; Ps.105:19-22;

JOEL 2:25-26 NKJV

“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming [a]locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

JOB 42:10 NKJV

*And the Lord [a]restored Job's losses
when he prayed for his friends.
Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as
much as he had before.*

Prayer 2

Father in the name of Jesus, I make a demand on the anointing for my restoration and that of every member of this church, spiritually, physiologically, financially, maritally, destiny-wise and otherwise in the name of Jesus. Job 42:10;