

THE BLESSING OF ENDURING

"8 Write this to the angel of the church in Smyrna: "The One who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again, says this: 9 I know your troubles and that you are poor, but really you are rich! I know the bad things some people say about you. They say they are Jews, but they are not true Jews. They are a synagogue that belongs to Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer for ten days. But be faithful, even if you have to die, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 "Everyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. Those who win the victory will not be hurt by the second death. "

Revelation 2:8-11 (NCV)

Testing doesn't reveal what's wrong, it reveals what's real

"The One who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again, says this: "
Revelation 2:8 (NCV)

Testing leads to questioning

"9 I know your troubles and that you are poor, but really you are rich! "
Revelation 2:9 (NCV)

How often do you compromise?

"2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2 (ESV)

"19 Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. "
Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

"10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer for ten days."
Revelation 2:10

"2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

Jesus allows the test not because He's trying to destroy your faith, but because He's trying to develop it

Your suffering can have meaning

"...But be faithful, even if you have to die, and I will give you the crown of life. "

Revelation 2:10 (NCV)

"24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. "

Galatians 5:24 (NLT)

"12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. "

James 1:12 (NLT)

"11 Everyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. Those who win the victory will not be hurt by the second death. "

Revelation 2:11 (NCV)

"8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.10 In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. "

1 Peter 5:8-10 (NLT)

Lakeside
CHURCH