



# Believe

Christmas at  SKYLINE  
CHURCH

## Faith under Fire, Trials That Transform Dr. Jeremy McGarity

*It is impossible to please God without faith.*

**HEBREWS 11:6 (NLT)**

*To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.*

**MATTHEW 25:29 (NLT)**

*The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith."*

**LUKE 17:5 (NLT)**

# I. HOW DOES GOD INCREASE MY FAITH

## \*THROUGH TRIALS AND TESTING!

...the testing of your faith produces perseverance... so that you may be mature and complete...

JAMES 1:3-4 (NIV)

...continue to follow [Jesus]. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. **Then your faith will grow strong**...

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (NLT)

# II. HOW DOES GOD TRANSFORM MY FAITH?

## 1 GOD TRANSFORMS MY FAITH THROUGH

### STRUGGLES.

...For a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith... may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 PETER 1:6-7 (NIV)

\* 2 Corinthians 11:23-31

I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

ISAIAH 48:10 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

JAMES 1:2-3 (NIV)

## 2 GOD TRANSFORMS MY FAITH THROUGH HIS WORD.

The people are to go out each day and gather enough manna for that day. In this way, I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

EXODUS 16:4 (NIV)

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

JOHN 13:17 (NIV)

### 3 GOD TRANSFORMS MY FAITH THROUGH WAITING .

God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands.

DEUTERONOMY 8:2 (NLT)

... God... acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIV)

Put your hope in the LORD. Travel steadily along his path. He will honor you by giving you the land.

PSALM 37:34 (NLT)

\*If I'm going to be the person God created me to be I need to be willing to wait in His PRESENCE and not just wait for his PRESENTS .

### 4 GOD TRANSFORMS MY FAITH THROUGH FINANCES .

If you haven't been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true (spiritual) riches?

LUKE 16:11 (NIV)

Excel in the grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to TEST the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

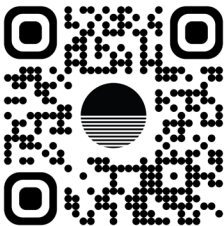
2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-8 (NIV)

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## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Share one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why.
- 2 Read James 1:2-3. What does this verse teach and tell us about trials we face? How have you practiced this verse in the past, and how can you put it into practice this holiday season?
- 3 Identify common challenges people face during the holidays. How can these challenges strengthen and transform your faith if handled right?
- 4 Read Colossians 2:6b-7. What practice does it say to start doing to help your faith stay strong and steady? Are you practicing what it says? If not, what accountability can you begin to put these things into practice?
- 5 How can we be praying for you this week?



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## Upcoming Events

- 12.10 | Operation Christmas Child Ends
- 12.21 | Christmas Eve Service: Rancho | 7PM
- 12.22 | Christmas Eve Service: Rancho | 7PM
- 12.23 | Christmas Eve Service:  
Rancho & Lakeside: 5PM
- 12.24 | Christmas Eve Service:  
Rancho | 9AM, 11AM, 3PM, & 5PM  
Lakeside | 9AM & 5PM