

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL THEMES

TESTING FAITH

1.) When you think of the word “test,” what comes to mind?

2.) When God tests us what is he looking for and looking at?

1 Chronicles 29:17 “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”

Psalm 26:2 Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.

Deuteronomy 13:3-4 The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

3.) Name some believers who were tested in Scripture. In what ways were they tested?

4.) A test in Scripture contains more than the idea of finding out what a person believes, it also provides an opportunity for a believer to grow in faith. Using an example from the previous question explain how this is true.

5.) In some respects, God’s tests can be compared to the added weights on a bar or added miles on a run or bike ride. Explain that similarity based on the passage below.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

6.) Considering the blessings faith brings into our lives, how should we feel when tests and trials come?

7.) What, then, are some of the benefits of God's testing?

1 Peter 1:7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

John 15:2 “Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

8.) What confidence can we have even in the fires of testing?

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

1 Peter 1:3-6 In his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

9.) Share any times of testing that the Lord has carried you through or you are still going through.

Closing Prayer: Holy Father, trainer of souls, you promise and we welcome you to exercise our faith in Jesus through various trials. Graciously use these to draw us closer to you and grow our Christian maturity so that we may glorify you in everything. Amen.