

Faith Tested - cont.

In the OT, Daniel and his friends refuse the Babylonian ways in order to stay pure (Daniel 1, 3, 6). In the NT, Peter and John refuse to stop preaching in order to carry out the great commission (Acts 4-5).

The day may come here in our own country when it will be illegal to practice some aspects of Christianity, but we as Christians must continue obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

5. Our Faith Is Tested When God Commands Something Which Is Contrary To Our Personal Preference

In the OT, Naaman was told to wash seven times in the Jordan; something he did not care for (2 Kings 5:10-14). Today, many prefer human authority to that of Christ, the social gospel to the gospel of Christ, and carnal entertainment to spiritual worship (Matthew 28:18; Romans 1:16).

Dear Christian, life is a test of your faith. God seeks to test all of us (Jeremiah 11:20; 1 Corinthians 13:5). Will you pass the test and go to heaven, or fail the test and go to hell?

- Chris Reeves -

- Word of the Week -

“Rejoice greatly” (Gr. *agalliaó*) describes the jailor and his household after their conversion (Acts 16:34). This is not the ordinary word for rejoice. This word means to “exult”, or to “rejoice greatly”. All Christians are to have this kind of joy (Matthew 5:12). Not a minimum joy, not an average joy, but a great joy. Let’s have this kind of joy this week in Christ.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ:
- 1 Peter 1:6-7 -*

We Live and Walk By Faith

After a person is baptized into Christ, he or she is to live the Christian life by faith. A person enters into a relationship with Christ “by faith” and a person continues that relationship “by faith”. The author of Hebrews wrote to Christians this way:

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (11:6).

Our Faith Is Often Tested By Fire

As a Christian lives and walks by faith each day, his or her faith is going to be tested. Daily trials will test us all (1 Corinthians 3:13; Revelation 2:10; 3:10). We could be tested by false doctrines, worldly desires, misplaced priorities, etc. How well do we bear up under the load of daily testing? James

wrote to Christians this way:

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (1:2-4).

Let’s consider now how a Christians’ faith is tested on a regular basis.

1. Our Faith Is Tested When That Which Is Commanded Seems Contrary To Reason

In the OT, Noah was told to build an ark (Genesis 6:13-22) and Moses was told to take a serpent by the tail (Exodus 4:1-5). These things could easily be viewed as contrary to human reasoning, yet they did what they were told by faith.

Today, things like the divine creation of the universe, the virgin birth, the resurrection, the second coming of Jesus, and the end of the world may seem unreasonable doctrines, yet we accept them by faith.

2. Our Faith Is Tested When The Thing Commanded Appears To Be Wrong

In the OT, Abraham was commanded to offer up Isaac for a burnt offering and he did that by faith (Genesis 22:1-13; Hebrews 11:17-19; Romans 4:12). [For those

not familiar with the story, the Lord stopped Abraham before he actually killed his son.] In the NT, Peter was charged in a vision to “kill and eat” (Acts 10:9-16, 28).

Today, Christians are to “hate” father, mother, etc., and love Jesus more (Luke 14:26; Matthew 10:34-39).

3. Our Faith Is Tested When We Can See No Connection Between The Thing Commanded And the End Result

In the OT, the children of Israel were to march around Jericho and the walls would fall down which they did by faith (Joshua 6:1-21; Hebrews 11:30). In the NT, the man born blind was told by Jesus wash in the pool of Siloam and he would be healed (John 9:1-7).

Today, people are to be baptized “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). If we do this, we will be forgiven even though there appears to be no connection between water and forgiveness.

4. Our Faith Is Tested When God Commands Something Which Is Contrary To Man’s Law