

Enjoy God's Presence
Tried and Tested

What flows in
must flow out.

The Pathway

Do Life Together

Worship Together Regularly

Enjoy God's Presence

Live Differently

Give Generously

Share Your Story

Serve Others

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces perseverance.

A “test” is a challenging
circumstance placed in a person’s
life by God for a specific purpose.

Hebrews 12: 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?... 10 God disciplines us for our good, **in order that we may share in his holiness.**

Hebrews 12: 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Deuteronomy 8: 2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and **test you in order to know what was in your heart**, whether or not you would keep his commands.

A “test” is not a pass/fail concept
for the Hebrews.

A “test” is not a pass/fail concept
for the Hebrews.

God tested them to “know” what
was in their hearts.

“know” is ya’dá in Hebrew

It’s not cerebral knowledge but a
knowledge of intimacy.

Two Reasons God Tests Us

(1). That He may “know” us.

The God of grace still wants to
know you
even when your heart is prone to
sin and wandering.

Exodus 15: 22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.)

Exodus 15: 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.

Often, God's tests come in the
form of a law or command.

God is looking for willful
obedience.

Be not deceived, Wormwood, our cause is never more in jeopardy than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending to do our Enemy's will, looks round upon a universe in which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.

CS Lewis "The Screwtape Letters"

Exodus 15: 26 He said, “**If** you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, **if** you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.”

If we can learn to wait on the Lord
He will give us exactly what we
need exactly when we need it.

Matthew 4: 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, **but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’”

God's desired response to any
test or trial
is submission to His will.

Exodus 15: 27 Then they came to Elim,
where there were twelve springs and
seventy palm trees, and they camped there
near the water.

The reward for perseverance in
testing

is assurance in God's abundance.

Two Reasons God Tests Us

(1). That He may “know” us.

Two Reasons God Tests Us

- (1). That He may “know” us.
- (2). To draw our attention to problem areas of faith.

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces perseverance.

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

Enjoy God's Presence
Tried and Tested