

### This is Only a Test

**“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”**

**James 1:2-3**

If there is one thing any person, who has ever attended a school, is familiar with, it is a “test”. From pop quizzes that our teachers would surprise us with to standardized tests that determine whether or not we move to the next grade, tests or assessments are a common and necessary part of learning and education. However, just as tests are a needed part of the learning process in our schools, they are a regular and required part of the life for a disciple (student/follower) of Christ. Therefore, every child of God needs to know that when troubles come, don’t fret or fear. Exemplify courageous commitment by remembering, “This is only a test”.

The tests we encounter as Christians are hidden within the challenges, troubles and temptations we face from day-to-day; and, like a school test, they help the student (Christian) and the teacher (God/Christ) to determine whether or not the principles or knowledge that has been shared by the teacher has been understood and able to be applied by the student. How we respond during the test and to the test reveals to God whether or not we have truly learned the principles, teachings and concepts He has been trying to show us from His word. Satan wants you to fail the test; but, God wants to know, mainly, if you trust Him like you say you do. When your trials come, it is your faith that is being tested. In this midst of your challenges, prove to God that you believe He is real and that He can and will do what He has said He will do. Trust Him enough to be obedient to His word despite the discomfort or inconvenience of the test. Be patient during the test and wait on Him to fulfill His promises.

Not only do individual Christians face tests but, sometimes, God will allow an entire congregation of His people to be tested to see if they truly know and trust Him and His word. Therefore, we need to understand that God has a greater purpose behind our trials and temptations. He is trying to make you better, stronger and, even more patient so that you might be able to glorify Him. So, as James says, when you are being tested, consider it an opportunity for joy because you can know that God is perfecting (maturing, refining) you through what you are going through. God is up to something good. Hang in there, trust God and stay faithful and obedient to His word. Every test eventually comes to an end. All you need to do is endure and make the right choices like your Teacher (Christ) has taught you. Remember, this is only a test, but, it is up to you to pass it.