

## TESTED FAITH

### #1 Test by Temptation & Failure

#### 1 Peter 1:6–7 (KJV 1900)

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Everything of value faces a test.

Tested faith is \_\_\_\_\_.

- Testing reveals \_\_\_\_\_
- Testing refines our \_\_\_\_\_
- Testing \_\_\_\_\_ our faith
- Testing \_\_\_\_\_

#### I. OUR FAITH IS TESTED IN TIMES OF \_\_\_\_\_:

Every temptation is a test of our faith.

Maybe you have heard it said that opportunity only knocks once, but temptation knocks continually. It never stops trying to find a way into our lives.

Temptation is the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### James 1:12–15 (KJV 1900)

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

We are tested when we are \_\_\_\_\_ by our own lust:

Temptation is a trap set by the devil, and it is designed to get you to \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

Because Satan is a liar (John 8:44), the bait he uses often appears like something you need or desire, even something sweet, innocent or harmless. However, when you yield to temptation, you will always find the bitter fruit of sin.

The devil never gives you what he says he will. He may promise liberty and ecstasy, but he delivers bondage, guilt and shame. God, on the other hand, is faithful and always keeps His Word.

**a. Three areas of temptation:**

The temptations we face fall into three areas: the \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, or the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 2:16).

- i. The **lust of the flesh** has to do with our bodily appetites. Drunkenness, drug addiction, gluttony, adultery, fornication and homosexuality are some of the sins of the flesh.
- ii. The **lust of the eyes** is an excessive desire for things of the world. Covetousness, greed, idolatry, the love of money and financial dishonesty result from the lust of the eyes.
- iii. The **pride of life** is the desire for glory or fame. Someone who struggles with the pride of life is tempted by worldly honors, fame, reputation and position.

**b. Jesus overcame all three:**

**Luke 4:1–13 (KJV 1900)**

**1** And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

**2** Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

**3** And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

**4** And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

**5** And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

**6** And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

**7** If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

**8** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

**9** And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

**10** For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

**11** And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

**12** And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

**13** And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Jesus confidence was firmly in the Word of God. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith. Jesus overcome temptation because of His faith in the word of God.

**c. Temptation itself is not a sin, but it is a test of who we trust.**

Temptation is often an enticement to meet \_\_\_\_\_ in an \_\_\_\_\_. We must believe that God cares about and will meet our needs in a proper way and time.

How we respond to temptation reveals \_\_\_\_\_ in that moment. Do we believe the messages we are getting from our flesh, the world, or Satan? Or, do we trust in the Word of God?

Temptation reveals whether or not we will lean on our own limited understanding and compromised reasoning or whether we will hold to the Word of God.

**d. Faith's Response to Temptation:**

i. Faith causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Word of God

**Psalm 119:9 (KJV 1900)**

**9** BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

**Psalm 119:114 (KJV 1900)**

**114** Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

ii. Faith causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ and seek help in times of weakness

**Psalm 142:3-5 (KJV 1900)**

**3** When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked Have they privily laid a snare for me.

**4** I looked on my right hand, and beheld, But there was no man that would know me: Refuge failed me; No man cared for my soul.

**5** I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge And my portion in the land of the living.

iii. Faith causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ from temptation

Faith looks for a way of \_\_\_\_\_:

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV 1900)**

**13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

## II. OUR FAITH IS TESTED IN TIMES OF \_\_\_\_\_:

Failure may be one of the toughest tests a Christian will take. It deeply affects our faith and creates a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ between us and God in a way that no other test does.

### **Luke 22:31–34 (KJV 1900)**

**31** And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

**32** But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

**33** And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

**34** And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

### a. Failure exposes areas of \_\_\_\_\_ in our theology.

Failure is \_\_\_\_\_! People of genuine faith will always get back up.

### **Psalms 37:23–24 (KJV 1900)**

**23** The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: And he delighteth in his way.

**24** Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: For the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

### **Proverbs 24:16 (KJV 1900)**

**16** For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: But the wicked shall fall into mischief.

### **Micah 7:8 (KJV 1900)**

**8** Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: When I fall, I shall arise; When I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

Too many people are living for God with a \_\_\_\_\_ mindset.

When we fail our faith is immediately put to the test. Do we believe that God's mercy is great and guaranteed? Or, do we believe that God's mercy is only available when we perform well enough or pray hard enough to deserve it.

When we fail:

- We feel \_\_\_\_\_ of His attention.
- We feel \_\_\_\_\_ from being part of His family.
- We feel \_\_\_\_\_ for our weakness and inconsistency.
- We feel too \_\_\_\_\_ to ask or even speak to Him.

Failure leads to feelings of guilt, shame and condemnation. In times of failure our feelings are affected deeply by these feelings of guilt, shame and condemnation. Yet, in these moments we have an opportunity to exercise \_\_\_\_\_. It is faith in its purest form – faith unmingled

- It takes an act of faith to pray after we have failed.
- It takes an act of faith to counteract feelings of shame with confessions of hope.
- It takes an act of faith to declare that His blood is sufficient to wash you from your sins.
- It takes an act of faith to say what God says about our sin.

**1 John 1:7 (KJV 1900)**

**7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**1 John 1:9 (KJV 1900)**

**9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 2:1 (KJV 1900)**

**1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

**Isaiah 1:18 (KJV 1900)**

**18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

*“It takes an act of honesty to confess one’s sin, but it takes an act of faith to confess His mercy and forgiveness over our sin.”*

Our faith must be in His work not in ours. Our faith must focus our words on His blood, not our stains. Our faith will cause us to say things that we do not feel and may \_\_\_\_\_.

David's Prayer:

**Psalms 51:1–13 (KJV 1900)**

**1** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

**2** Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

**3** For I acknowledge my transgressions: And my sin is ever before me.

**4** Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, And done this evil in thy sight: That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, And be clear when thou judgest.

**5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me.

**6** Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: And in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

**7** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- 8** Make me to hear joy and gladness; That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
- 9** Hide thy face from my sins, And blot out all mine iniquities.
- 10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me.
- 11** Cast me not away from thy presence; And take not thy holy spirit from me.
- 12** Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit.
- 13** Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; And sinners shall be converted unto thee.

**b. Faith in Failure Produces Dependence and Intimacy:**

**1 Peter 5:6–8 (KJV 1900)**

- 6** Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
- 7** Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
- 8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Peter would go on to use the word precious more than any other NT writer. His failure deepened His appreciation for things of God. To Peter:

- c.** The \_\_\_\_\_ was precious
- d.** The \_\_\_\_\_ was precious
- e.** The \_\_\_\_\_ were precious
- f.** At least three times he calls \_\_\_\_\_ precious