

The Test We All Have

First Things First (part 5)

God will bless you,
if you don't give up
when your faith is being tested.

James 1:12 CEV



When Does My Faith Get Tested?

When many of Jesus' disciples heard him, they said, "**What he says is hard to accept. Who wants to listen to him anymore?**"

Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and **stopped following him**. Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, "Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. **We have faith in you**, and we ...have learned to believe and trust..."

John 6:60,66-69 GWV, CEV, Amp

❖ When I Don't Understand _____

I don't understand what's going on. I hate my life! Job 9:21 Msg

Jesus answered, "**You don't understand now** what I'm doing, but it will be clear enough to you later." John 13:7 Msg

❖ When I Don't Know _____

"You know, I'm sure that this is highly irregular. Jews just don't do this—visit and relax with people of another race. But God has just shown me that no race is better than any other. So the minute I was sent for, I came, no questions asked. But now **I'd like to know why** you sent for me." Acts 10:28-29 Msg

❖ When I Don't See _____

We couldn't relax because **we didn't know how it would turn out**. 2 Corinthians 7:5 Msg

❖ When I Feel Like Giving _____

As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up. Matthew 13:21 CEV

They were **trying to intimidate us into quitting**. They thought, "They'll give up; they'll never finish it." I prayed, "Give me strength." Nehemiah 6:9 Msg

We often suffer, but we are never crushed. **Even when we don't know what to do**, we never give up. 2 Corinthians 4:8 CEV

Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That's because **God cares, cares right down to the last detail**. James 5:10 Msg

How Can I Pass the Test?

❖ I Only Need to Know _____

Whoever doesn't lose his **faith in me** is indeed blessed. Matthew 11:6 GWV

So **keep your mind on Jesus**, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't get discouraged and give up. Hebrews 12:3 CEV

Abraham **didn't focus on his own impotence** and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, **sure that God would make good on what he had said**.

Romans 4:19 Msg

We know how much God loves us,
and we have put our trust in him.