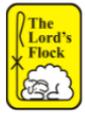


Test of Faith

(Faith to Faith Series, Part 6)

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Bobby Rodriguez
Elder-Founder



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

FAITH is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Heb. 11:1). The blind man's faith healed him, "according to your faith, let it be done to you" (Mt. 9:28-29). Faith requires our action.

1. Three Types of Faith:

- 1.1. **Believing Faith** (Jas.2:19). Faith originates from Latin "*fidere*" which means "to trust. Hence, we trust him though we cannot see Him with our eyes.
- 1.2. **Trusting faith** is an active, relational trust in the reliability, promises and character of God even in the absence of proofs.
- 1.3. **Expectant Faith** is fervent trust and confident expectation that God will act and reveal His grace; it involves active engagement and commitment to do His will rather than passive waiting. Thus, "Whatever you ask for in prayer... believe and it will be yours" (Mk 11:4). This leads to joyful anticipation and thankfulness. God is pleased when we trust Him (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14:23).

2. How we grow in FAITH. Let us be inspired by the apostles who asked the Lord - "...Lord, increase our faith" (Lk. 17:5).

- 2.1. Faith is tested to develop perseverance (Jn. 6:5-7); we will be matured and complete (Jas. 1:2-3).
- 2.2. The Lord allowed the testing of Job (Job 1:5-22), yet Job did not sin (Job 1:17-18). Rather, he gave praise, "The Lord gave and has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
- 2.3. The Lord tests us daily. Hence, **every day we have faith-building opportunities.**

3. Ways God tests our FAITH:

- 3.1. **Difficulties** (trials, problems, stresses of life) test and prove our faith by facing our problems daily (Jn. 15:18-19). There are no accidents in Christian life because God allows and uses our problems and disappointments as His appointments (Isa. 48:10).

3.2 **Demands** may seem unreasonable, almost impossible (Mt. 5:44; 1 Thess. 5:16; Lk. 6:27). When God tests us, He wants us to grow our faith (Gen. 12:1-4). Faith is often a risk because we can't understand it all in advance (Heb. 11), so we must learn to obey whether it makes sense to us or not.

4 Lessons we need to learn to live by faith:

- 4.1 We must learn to rejoice continually (Phil. 4:4). God builds our faith in difficult times: "Rejoice, though for a little while you will suffer ..." (1Pt. 2:6-7).
- 4.2 God has a purpose for our life, and He will help us go through our problem or difficulty.

5. How we should approach testings:

- 5.1 Trust God's presence.
- 5.2 Rely on the Holy Spirit to help us live according to God's will.
- 5.3 Live with integrity; align with righteousness and peace.
- 5.4 Look for spiritual growth.

6. What we should do during difficult times:

- 6.1 Observe our reactions.
- 6.2 Practice obedience instead of acting on our will.
- 6.3 Seek God's wisdom; prioritize God's guidance.
- 6.4 Maintain discipline. Minimize distractions; remain focused and avoid falling into temptation.

Reflection:

1. How have you been doing in the furnace of affliction?
2. How promptly do you respond to what God tells you to do? Do you obey when it is only convenient or maybe you wait for a while?
3. Have you learned to obey without questions?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, grant me the endurance and resilience to face challenges with faith and confidence. Thank you for being my rock and fortress. Amen.

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Edited by: Vera I. Tuplano

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