

How to pass the pressure test

Romans 5:1-5 (NASB) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

James 1:2 (NASB) ““Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”

**First: God has a PURPOSE in pressure tests.**

John 16:33 (NASB) “In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

God wants us to have three important pieces of knowledge.**1. Pressure tests come to prove your FAITH.**

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NASB) “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

2. To Increase your ENDURANCE.

Romans 5:3 (NASB) “And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance.”

3. To achieve spiritual MATURITY.

Romans 5:3b-4 (NASB) “Knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character.”

James 1:4 (NASB) “And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Ephesians 4:13 (NASB) “Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

Second: The RESPONSE to trials:**Three “how-to” tips for us:****1. Display JOY.**

James 1:2 (NASB) “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”

Hebrews 12:2 (NASB) “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

2. Ask for WISDOM.

James 1:5 (NASB) “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach.”

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1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB) “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide

James 1:8-6 (NASB) “But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

3. Give God **PRAISE**.

James 1:9-10 (NASB) “But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.”

5 powerful resources

1. You have a **PEACE** that the world cannot understand. (John 14:27)
2. You have **GRACE** for every time of trouble. (Hebrews 4:16)
3. You have **POWER** that will fortify you. (Ephesians 3:16)
4. You have **LOVE** that is incomprehensible. (Ephesians 3:17-19)
5. You have **SECURITY** that is unshakable. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Application:

What do you now understand about God’s reasons for putting trials in your life?

Consider your most recent trial and rate how well you’re doing on the following points.

Choosing joy: Using God’s accounting system and resting in the fact that He is at work.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Asking for wisdom: Praying, seeking out Christian fellowship, relying on the Word of God.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Praising God: Finding reasons to be thankful in the midst of the fire.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Do you realize the resources of peace, grace, power, love and security?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What do you need to do to adjust your life to accommodate God’s purposes in your trials?

Memory verse: James 1:2-3 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”