

It's Only A Test!

Why? # 5-6

Gary Chappel – June 8th 2014

I handle my test by understanding three things:

1. This is a test of my faith.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
James 1:2-3 (NIV)

For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

2 Chronicles 20:12 (NIV)

⇒ **Faith is my target.**

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.
Romans 14:23 (NIV)

2. Real faith requires me to take action.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel... This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army... Tomorrow march down against them... Take up your positions;
2 Chronicles 20:14-17 (NIV)

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

James 2:14-17 (NIV)

⇒ **God will give me SPECIFIC action.**

(See Hebrews 11 also)

⇒ **My attitudes are equal to my actions!**

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:19-26 (NIV)

3. I need to involve others.

As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."
2 Chronicles 20:20 (NIV)

⇒ **People that will point me at the target.**

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

*"Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever."*

2 Chronicles 20:21 (NIV)

⇒ **Someone who knows me & knows God**