

Title: Hitting the trial run
Pastor: Heinrich Titus
Date: 25 September 2016
Time: 9:00am



Our claim to fame

James 1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. See also Exodus 21:5-6

Check your balance sheet

James 1:2-4 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Various trials

Greek: *peirasmos*

...is trial, testing, temptation directed towards an end, and the end is that he who is tested should emerge stronger and purer from the testing.

William Barclay, The Daily Study Bible

Testing our faith

Process of testing: *dokimion*

The process of proving something to be genuine . ..God's testing process has the goal or aim of purging us of all impurity....

(Forerunner Commentary)

A test passed

Judges 3: 1-2 ¹ Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might *test* Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan ² (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it)

servant-enemies

Judges 3:3-4 ³ namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. ⁴ And they were left, that He might test (*purify, purge and strengthen*) Israel by them....

Ephesians 2:10-12 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

Check your balance sheet

James 1:2-4 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Check your balance sheet

Lord give me patience now!

Patience: *Hupomone* (unswerving constancy)

...is not simply the ability to bear things, it is the ability to turn them into greatness and glory.

William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible*

Check your balance sheet

James 1:2-4 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces *unswerving constancy* (*the ability to not just passively bear things, but to turn them into greatness and glory*). ⁴ But let unswerving constancy have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (*fit for purpose*) and complete (*fit for service*), lacking nothing.

For the joy set before us

James 1:12 blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12 Happy is the man who meets trial with steadfast constancy, because, when he has shown himself of sterling worth, he will receive the crown of life which He has promised to those who love Him.

(Barclay Translation)