The Tests and Trials Strengthen Your Faith – Part 2

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

This Life is a Test

You and I often see things so differently. You look at it as blessed to have a more carefree or obviously successful life with fewer problems, difficulties or afflictions. I look at it as being better to have a full life--one that is rich in faith, depth of spirit, understanding, sacrificial love and concern for others, an intimate relationship with Me, inner spiritual strength, and a tender heart. And often these treasures of spirit, these priceless qualities, don't come without trials, suffering, or surviving great difficulties.

In Heaven, everyone will lead charmed lives. There will be no more suffering, sadness, or times when you have to "walk by faith" through very difficult circumstances. But the attributes you gain through those difficult conditions now will be with you for eternity. Now is your chance to gain those virtues, through experiences which you will only have on Earth. Although there are difficulties, they lead to precious lessons, spiritual "medals of honor" which go to those who pass through the fire and endure the tests. (1)

So many people wish for their faith to be strengthened, but they're not really willing to go through the difficult times that are necessary to do so. They want Me to wave My magic wand and give them strong faith, just like that, without them having to do anything. But that's not how faith works. Faith is built, it grows, and it is strengthened--not through comfy, non-problematic, peaceful times, but through uncomfortable, difficult times.

I'm using this difficult time to strengthen the most valuable gift you possess: your faith. And if the strengthening of your faith was not of utmost importance to Me, then I would not be allowing these tests. Your faith is important to Me. Your faith is what your whole spiritual life for Me is built on, and it must be strong. It must be strong enough to withstand the fears of the Enemy. It must be strong enough to trust Me, even when circumstances and conditions are not perfect. (2)

(Dad speaking:) I love to see the beauty and love and tenderness on the faces of His saints who He has tested and purified, and who have come out as fine gold. Such radiance of love! Such a beauty and glow of faith! Did you know that I believe you can actually see faith on a person's face? It just sort of radiates in simplicity and calmness. Some people have it and some people don't; but those who have it, have that beautiful, gentle, trusting look on their face which is so comforting. When you see it, you know that they didn't get it overnight. It took time, maybe years of testing and teaching and trusting, but they got it! They hung on and kept trusting, and before they knew it, the Lord had blessed them with His special glow and shine! (3)

This life is a test. This time here is one of walking by faith and not by sight, just holding on to My promises and believing that what I say in My Word is true, even if you don't necessarily have the proof to back it up. (4)

I test and I purge you, to make you white, to make you ready, to make you desperate, to make you cling to Me. So think it not strange concerning the fiery trials which test you and try you. For I allow these things--to move you, to change you, to test you, to purge you, to cause you to seek Me, to make you face the challenges, to make you pull out the sword of the Spirit of My Word, to make you hold up the shield of faith and to make you fight! (5)

The most trying places throughout your life are where you are going to grow in faith the most, be the most strengthened, and be the most useful to Me. This is a promise. You may feel you have yet to see this promise fulfilled, but you will see the fulfillment as you put one foot in front of the other and walk on into the destiny that I have for you. (6)

I need grown, mature, strong men and women of faith, those who have faced life's struggles and pain, and who have experienced the depths of sorrow and trial, who know what it means to ache, to suffer, to weep, and to despair. (7)

Faith grows, it's built over time, and the more your faith is tested, the more faith you'll have.

Expect Me to strengthen your faith by putting you in faith-inducing situations. They are generally pretty trying at the time, but always result in greater faith if you put Me to the test and watch Me do the miracle. With time, you will be strong enough to stand firm in the fiercest of gales. (8)

Difficulties, tests, trials, heartbreaks, suffering and disappointments come from many causes and for many reasons, but regardless of why they have come or what the reason, you can rest assured that all things work together for good to them that love Me. Because you love Me I can take even these trials and turn them into blessings.

If you could see as I can see--beyond today, beyond this moment, beyond the pain which you are feeling--then you would better be able to understand why trials equal blessings. You would better be able to understand why this loss, this ache in your heart, this time when you are being sorely tempted and tested, will with time become a blessing to you.

The secret to understanding, the key to understanding, is in the phrase "with time." As you believe by faith that My hand is on your life and that all things work together for good, with time, that which you believe by faith you will understand and see, and it will become a reality in your life. (9)

When I promised to keep My children and to deliver them, I did not say that I would take them out of the difficulties that they faced. True, sometimes I do, but more often than not I choose to bring them through those difficulties, because that's how I prove My power. If My children knew that as soon as they faced a difficulty they would immediately be pulled out of it, what strength of spirit would that bring about in their life? So in bringing you through tough times, difficulties, and hardships, I am able to bring My blessings of ultimate peace in the midst of any situation, faith that is not shaken, and a love for Me that nothing and no one can take away. (10)

You've got to see each battle for what it is: It's a challenge and a test, a workout to strengthen your muscles and build your energy levels so that you'll be ready to run and win. I know it's tough, but you've got to get over this hurdle. Although I could spare you from it, that wouldn't help you in the long run. Therefore I must let you fight through, so that you'll gain the experience, strength, and faith that others can make it too. So don't despair, and don't get discouraged with yourself, because I made you as you are and I allow these struggles so that you will become the fighter I need you to be. (11)

I have prepared you through the struggles, through many toils, through many battles, through the fires of affliction. I have prepared you through many breakings, many disappointments, through the trying of your patience, through the trying of your faith. (12)

When was the last time you tried threading a needle? You probably licked the end of the thread and held the needle up close, squinting, straining your eyes as you carefully and repeatedly tried to maneuver the thread through. Sometimes it threads easier than at other times, but almost always there are those moments of difficulty and frustration, right up until you finally get it through. Now why would you bother threading that needle in the first place? Because there's a purpose and a plan. You need to create something or mend something.

Remember this the next time you feel like your trials are threading you through the eye of a needle and you're experiencing pressure, frustration, and anguish. There is a plan and a purpose--My plan--and that is to create something glorious with your life: a tapestry that is going to wow the world with its deep colors, intricate detail, and beauty, the kind that can only be created through the trying of one's faith. It's those difficult and hard-earned lessons that make the tapestry of your life stand miles apart from all the rest, because so few are willing to endure and persevere through the trial in order to create that life of beauty and substance. (13)

To those who are being tried and sorely tested, know that you do not stand alone. Many of you are passing through the hot fires of testing in these days. This is something I am allowing, for I am stirring the pot. You, My servants, My friends, My loves, are not above your Lord. If you are going to be used in even greater ways than Me, when I walked the Earth, you must be tried. If you are going to be able to access the power of the keys you hold in your hands, your faith must be as pure gold. As it was necessary to purge Gideon's band down to those who meant business, down to those I could count on, so it is necessary among the children of David.

I have shared with you, My children, some of My Own testimony of how I was put to the test, tried and purged, both on the eve of My public ministry as well as throughout. It was a test for Me when one of My strongest disciples denied Me, when one betrayed Me, when some of the others could not fight through enough and stay awake with Me and pray for Me in My dark hour. But these tests and many others which I endured were necessary. They were necessary that I might be found worthy to receive the promise, that I might have pure gold faith to be able to access the power I held in My hands.

So if you feel the heat of battle hotter than ever and you feel the battle heavy upon you and the battle's flames scorching your brow, be encouraged and find solace in the fact that you are not alone. Many of the children of David are being tested. I am allowing this for an express purpose--to try you, to make you white, to strengthen your faith, that you might be found worthy for what is almost upon you. (14)

Every challenge you face, every heartache, every difficulty, every time your faith is opposed, every time you battle and overcome is noted in your "service record," and brings you great acclaim and recognition. I know what each battle costs you, and this is why your willingness to fight and persevere, even when the battles seem more than you can endure, is priceless in My sight.

I know at times you can be tempted to wonder why the battles can sometimes seem so long, and why the final victories can sometimes seem so elusive and difficult to obtain. Take heart, My loves, in the knowledge that all of your spiritual brothers and sisters around the world also face tests of their faith and endurance. These trials and tests--difficult though they may be at times--are your helpers. They help you to become spiritually fit, just as a physical trainer helps you to get your body in shape. (15)

I allow tests of faith in all My children's lives. It doesn't mean that you are weak; quite the contrary.

Most of the greatest men and women of God have had such tests, because of the very fact that they were destined for greatness. I had to allow such strong tests of their faith--tests that shook their faith to the roots. They had to reach the point where they stood before Me and found their faith in Me alone. But from that point--that ground that seemed to be shaking beneath their feet--sprang a new influx of faith and power that catapulted them to their ultimate destiny. (16)

My children down throughout history have fought battles that were equally difficult, even those you call great men and women of God. You can be encouraged that, though your battles are severe, your resources are plentiful. You've been given a lot in the way of truth, My Word, the knowledge of where you're at in world history, and exactly what's happening with the race. All they knew was that they needed to run. Most of them had to go it alone, with very little support from others and very little Word in comparison with what you have. You think you have to take it by faith--they really did! (17)

How glorious are the crowns of those who struggle through difficult hardship, through desperation, through dismay and through fear, and yet carry on. For these are like the widow who cast in her last mite, and they feel as if they have no more. But they know not the great and wonderful honor that I will bestow upon them for their sacrifice and for their willingness to hold on and to trust Me, though all around it seems that I have failed them. And though they feel that I have failed them, yet they trust Me. What honor I will bestow upon them, for great is their faith. (18)

Life on Earth includes hardship; that's just the way it is. Hardship isn't a sign of a lack of My blessings. It's not a sign that you're doing the wrong thing. Life on Earth is just plain difficult at times, and some of the hardships are lifelong.

Look at those who are born handicapped or in destitute circumstances. Life on Earth, whether you're in the Family or not, is a training and testing ground, one which teaches you to make the right decisions despite the hardships. It teaches you to see things positively even when you feel like things are hopeless, to choose to love and share and sacrifice even when you don't have enough, to choose to do the right thing even when everything around you is wrong.

I can't take you completely out of these tests and trials of life, because they're a big part of why you're here. But I have given you answers, solutions, insight, understanding, and spiritual weapons that give you an advantage in the battle, if you choose to use them.

And one day soon I will gather you and all My faithful children home, and then you'll be so glad. Your battle wounds really will glow. The trials and difficulties you endured will have grown your faith, and the more faith you have, the richer you are in the spiritual realm. So use those trials you face to work for you! Don't let them get you down. Know that great is your reward in Heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

I am the author and the finisher of your faith, and if I am blessing you with the trials of life, then I have seen that your faith needs a little more "finishing" and strengthening in a certain aspect, and thus I haven't seen fit to deliver you from these trials and afflictions as quickly as you would like. But trust Me, and look to Me, and know that I'm not going to let you suffer these things any longer than you have to, and certainly not past the point of usefulness. If you do your part, then your faith will be strengthened, you will be matured and strengthened, and when I see fit to deliver you, you will have come through as gold. If I'm letting a battle persist in your life, then you can know that it's still working My good pleasure for you, just as a fever cleanses the body of that which is not good. (19)

I don't choose to solve all your problems instantaneously, without your even knowing what the solution is. That would only serve to cripple your faith, for you would miss the lesson, you would miss the learning experience, you would miss the trying moments which cause you to cling to Me and to strengthen your faith. The road that I bring you on now is the road of faith. Though it may seem hard, rough, and rugged, believe Me, it is the road whereby you are able to keep your faith. (20)

Very often the progress that seems slow, and yet at the same time proves to be sure and steady, is the progress that is rock solid and sound. It endures, and thus it is real progress--ground that will not have to be covered at a later date. This is when real growth has come about, and very often this type of growth has its testings and its Gethsemanes--its times of standing on the brink wondering if you're going to topple over, its times of standing on the edge of your faith. This kind of progress goes deep, penetrating the very fiber of your being, down into the recesses of your spirit. (21)

The tests and trials that come your way today may seem big and hard to you, but they are preparing you and strengthening your faith for what is to come. That faith will be your salvation in the days to come.

So praise Me for each circumstance that I allow to come into your life that stretches you, that is difficult, or that is causing your faith to become stronger, for it is working My purpose in your life and it is removing your fear and giving you strong, unshakable faith. That is the kind of faith that will overcome the world and all the evil in it, and bring you safely into My arms. (22)

The things that seem so difficult today are the things that, in the future, you will be thankful that you experienced, because they will have taught you important lessons of faith, patience and wisdom. It's never easy, but these will be the things that the spiritually stronger you of the future will praise and thank Me for bringing you through. (23)

(Dad speaking:) Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials, as though some strange thing came upon you, but understand that it's the Lord working in your life to quicken these lessons, to make you moldable and yielded and humble and useful, to hasten the process so that you also will have that closeness, that desperation with the Lord, so that He can mightily use you in soon-coming events. Unless you are broken you will not have this closeness to His voice, the dependency on Him, the total yieldedness that it will take to fight the battles.

So don't be discouraged by the tests and the trials, but hold on! He is making you into the pure gold that will pass through the fires and come out full of faith and trust. (24)

The Enemy has been given permission to test and try your faith now, but only so that it can be made whiter, more pure and precious, and thus be more rewarded. What he's really doing is adding to your ever growing and grand reward. He can't take anything away from you. Even his attacks only bring you more glory, more honor, more strength, more love, more reward. What can he do to you? (25)

Precious gems shine more vividly when placed against a black background. The jewels of wisdom, faithfulness, unshakable faith, and the ability to stay positive in difficult times, shine more brightly as a result of troubles and problems, and become a witness to many. (26)

I will be beside you. I will be very near and dear to you. I will see you through this battle, and in the end you will look back and feel strengthened. Your faith will have grown, for you will have seen Me do miracles; you will have experienced My strength when you are weak, and you will know and be more fully persuaded that what I have promised I am able also to perform. (27)

(Dad speaking:) Receive the Lord's peace; receive His Words. Believe them, hold on to them, and keep trusting that He's going to do exactly what He's promised. That's where your strength will come from--faith in Him--the God of all Heaven and Earth, Who is more than able to give you perfect peace, perfect trust, and anoint you to walk through any test or battle and come out victorious! (28)

Hang On By Faith and Refuse to Quit

Have unfailing, undying faith! Have faith to keep going when the going is tough. Have faith to continue to say yes and yield, even though you feel like quitting. That is true faith!--Faith that hangs on and carries on in the face of difficulties and obstacles!--Faith that refuses to quit, that demands the blessing, that continues to expect! And such faith will receive. (29)

The Enemy knows that if you continue to hang on by faith and fight and yield and endure the battle--no matter how hot and heavy and hard--that there will be a beautiful victory. I can do miracles and do the totally unexpected. I can deliver you from the agony and torment and give you peace of mind.

You must just hang on and trust Me by faith, and pull out all the weapons of warfare--your spiritual weapons--the Word, praise, prayer, singing! You need to continue to go on the attack. You need to bring your battles, your heartcries and problems before Me in prayer and listen to My voice in prophecy, so that I may personally encourage and strengthen you, and give you comfort and encouragement to keep fighting. (30)

Hold on to My Word. Hold on to My promises, and don't let the Enemy steal away your faith and your belief that I am in control. No matter how bad things look, everything is ultimately in My hands, and I will bring about good in the end. My Word is rock solid, it never fails, and you can count on it to pull you through any test or trial. (31)

Hold fast to your faith, and let the trials and challenges exercise it, not weaken it. There will be a great reward and great rejoicing for those who hold fast till the end. (32)

Faith isn't obedience and perseverance when there are no problems or obstacles. Faith is fighting on in spite of all of the problems, obstacles and battles. Faith looks to Me regardless of how many difficulties there are. Faith keeps following, no matter what the circumstances indicate. Faith knows that My promises will be fulfilled no matter what. (33)

The trying of your faith is more precious than gold. You must believe that promise when the big battles hit. When you feel like things are getting too rough, or you're hit with some strange fear or doubt or worry, or the Enemy tries to tell you that you won't be able to make it much longer, you just have to face the battle with the faith of a warrior. You might not feel like you have the faith of a warrior at the time, but that doesn't matter; just act like it and move forward like you are that warrior and the Enemy will never know the difference.

You are that warrior as long as you move forward by faith, whether you feel like it or not. Act like it, and your faith and obedience will bring the power of My Spirit to your aid. Your armor is indestructible. You carry weapons of mass destruction to the Enemy's imps. You are powerful in the spirit because My promises will never fail. You might be shaking on the inside in the face of the Enemy's attacks, but just yell in his face, "Tremble, you devils! Run for your lives! You're

about to feel the full force of God's army!" [34]

The secret to victory and success is to look up into My face each time you're in the middle of a battle. Each time the Ol' Boy tries to condemn or discourage you, look up into My face, into My eyes, and you will see your victory there in My eyes! And you will immediately have the faith to step out and conquer in that particular battle! A mere glance at Me, your Knight in shining armor, will instill in you the courage, and you will know that I am your strength and that I'm fighting for you and with you, and that the victory is won! [35]

What does it mean to look to Me? It means to turn your face upward, to look into My eyes in the spirit by asking Me how I see things, by trusting Me that I love you and will do that which is best for you, by giving Me your will and yielding to whatever I have brought into your life, and looking for the good in it. When you do that, through our time gazing in each other's eyes in the spirit, I am able to give you not only faith and healing and comfort, but also the deeper things of the spirit that I have in store for you. You gain so much through these types of experiences. [36]

Will you answer the call? Will you let Me fill you and renew you and empower you so that you may find strength to faint not, but fight on? Fight on in faith, dear children! It matters not how long or how hard the battle goes, for I am with you and I will fight on your behalf--if you will but yield to Me. [37]

Fix your thoughts on Me and meditate on My power, greatness, and love, until you are confident of My love and care for you despite what does or doesn't happen to you on Earth. Remember that although I would love to make your life a paradise of only good, that is not the point of your life, and that "in the world ye shall have tribulation" (John 16:33). Remember this, so that you don't become angry at Me for how I have or haven't intervened in your life. If you feel angry at Me, tell Me so. That's okay. I want to hear from your heart, even if it is a confused jumble of sorrow and anger. I'm here for you, even if you feel angry at Me.

It really helps if you are secure in the knowledge that I love you and can work all things together for good in your life, that I do all things well. You'll find extreme praise and extreme faith very helpful. Adopt the attitude of "though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15). You don't have to know why, you don't have to understand My actions or seeming lack of actions; you only have to believe that I am love, that I do all things well, and that I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

If all you can do is repeat "God is Love" over and over until you come to believe it, then that is a start. Remember that this is a matter of faith, not proof. The knowledge that I am here, that I love you, and that I care for you isn't something you will be able to prove through circumstances or carnal means. It's a matter of pure faith, a knowledge somewhere in your heart that I am the God of the Universe, and that I am love, and that My love will never fail.

You must come to know, like Job, that you can't hold Me to an accounting and ask Me to explain Myself to you, for as the heavens are high above the earth, so are My ways above your ways, and My thoughts above your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8,9).

My promises are there for you--promises of encouragement, comfort, rest, faith, and My eternal, unconditional love. Strengthen yourself in these things until you are fully able to believe in My love and My goodness. [38]

If you know that I love you, you know that everything is going to be okay. I don't ever stop loving you. So, there isn't much left to worry about, right? Whenever you're going through a deep, dark, faith-testing experience, hold on to the fact that I love you, and that everything is going to be all right. Just wait and see. [39]

You must continue to fight the battle, even though you be weary, as a sample of faith and trust and love for Me, and your sample will influence those who are yet moldable and able to be salvaged. Those who are still flexible and not totally hardened to the ways of My Spirit will eventually fall upon the rock of My will and allow themselves to be broken and used of Me more fully, and it will be because you have stood strong in the face of great difficulty and were willing to be the light that they so desperately needed. [40]

Shout the victor's cry when you face trials and tests, knowing that battles are your helpers. They strengthen your muscles of faith, perseverance, endurance, patience, praise, and determination. No matter how challenging the circumstances may seem, the victory is yours, as long as you stay close to Me, wield your spiritual weapons, and fight for victory. [41]

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2. Labor Of Love, A - Part 2 #3638:82, 83
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40. Hold on to the Reins! #3239:57
41. Active Member Commendation -- How Jesus Feels About You! #3770:90