

## Develop the Faith to Die, Then to Live (Go To Meeting)

Byron Norrod—November 27, 2021

This is going to probably be a highly emotional message. There are many, many examples of God's deliverance, His guidance and His Providence. That should engender faith in our lives. We can rehearse these examples all through the Bible to build our faith.

Deut. 8 is not necessarily an example of faith per se, but is an example of what God did and how He tested the flock of ancient Israel, which is what He's doing with us.

Deuteronomy 8:15: "**Who led you through the great and terrible wilderness** with fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where *there was* no water, **Who brought forth water for you** out of the rock of flint, **Who fed you in the wilderness with manna**, which your fathers did not know, so that He might humble you and **that He might prove you to do you good in your latter end**" (vs 15-16).

God is proving us! He was proving ancient Israel and now He's proving the Church: *judgment is now upon the house of Israel, the spiritual house!*

- What is God trying to prove through us?
- What is He doing?

***He's asking us to prove ourselves of whether we believe Him or not! Whether we have faith or not!***

It's easy for us to say that we believe. A lot of times we don't necessarily understand the magnitude and the scope of what God is doing. But His tests for us are amazing.

At the end of Deut. 8:15, it says that He brought water out of the rocky flint, out the desert. Do you understand that we are in the wilderness now, we are in Satan's world and it is a land destitute of water. Yet, water is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. So, God brought out—symbolically for Israel—water from the Rock, which was Jesus Christ.

He is also providing us with His Holy Spirit in this barren, dry wasteland, void of water. He's giving us water from the Rock.

I'm going to preface John 12:16 with ancient Israel. Did they understand what God was doing when He was doing it? *No! They didn't understand at all!* Even after the fact there in Deut. 8 God was saying,

Why did I do this? I did all these things for you, led you through dangerous grounds, led you

through testing and trials. There were serpents and scorpions in the desert with no water. I led you through all these trials to teach you to trust Me, to have the faith that you believe in Me.

But they didn't understand that! Now let's see about the New Testament Church and the disciples. Of course, this is before the Holy Spirit had been delivered on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) after Jesus had died.

John 12:16: "And His disciples did not understand these things at the beginning; but when Jesus was glorified, **then they remembered** that these things were written about Him, and that they had done these things to Him."

- How could they miss the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000?
- How could they miss Him walking on the water?

Verse 37: "Although He had done so many miracles in their presence, they did not believe in Him... [talking about the masses, not the disciples] ...so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled who said, 'Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of *the* Lord been revealed?' For this *very* reason they could not believe because again Isaiah said, 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so that they would not see with *their* eyes and understand with *their* hearts, and be converted, and I would heal them'" (vs 37-40).

This also applies to the disciples, because they could not perceive and understand and be converted immediately right then. Jesus was working with them; God was working with them through Jesus, teaching them, showing them lessons and giving them help and understanding.

The video, *The Chosen*, is a very good video series that is now in season three. I think it's very well-done series.

Mark 6:52: "For they did not understand *the miracle* of the loaves, because their hearts were hardened."

They still did not have the soft, malleable heart that God wanted them to have, and that God enabled them to have on the Day of Pentecost when He delivered the Holy Spirit.

Did they believe? *Yes, the disciples believed in God!* The Protestants say that all you have to do is

believe. Well, they believed! There's a lot more to it, and you know that.

What I'm trying to express is that there is a process; ***growing in faith is a process!*** We have to learn lessons through hardships, trials and suffering.

Everybody knows Psa. 23, and can quote it. I've got some running water in the background:

Psalm 23:1: "The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want." *Not having need for anything*, no wants that are ultimate, otherwise I won't survive.

Verse 2: "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (vs 2-6).

Everyone knows about Psa. 23, but we don't always link things that we could link.

Psalm 138:7: "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You shall stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand shall save me. The LORD will perfect His work in me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever; do not forsake the work of Your own hands" (vs 7-8).

- What is God doing? *He's perfecting His work in us!*
- How is He perfecting His work in us? *Through trials!*
- Do you have questions?
- Do you have fears?
- Do you have pains?
- Have you lost people?
- Have you lost a loved one?
- Have you lost a limb?
- Have you lost your family?
- Have you lost your sanity?
- Have you lost a friend?
- Have you lost your dog?

Maybe your dog is very important to you, and you lost your 'best friend'!

- Have you caught Covid?
- What if you have anthrax?
- West Nile Virus/
- E-Coli?

- Swine Flu?
- Cancer

None of these are a life sentence! I've had two people close to me in my family who have contracted Covid and they have not died. Not everyone else is as 'lucky' or provided for. But it does not mean that it's a life sentence if you catch something like this.

These are tests and trials that God is putting us through. We've had a lot messages on faith. That's because we see the writing on the wall, and it's not pleasant. The writing is horrendous. We know what's coming, and it's not positive.

- What if you cannot buy or sell?
- What if there's no food?
- What if you can't provide for your family?
- What if you're hungry?
- What if you don't have water?

*These are all tough questions!* By the way, ***prep now!*** Become a 'prepper'!

You might say, 'I didn't know it was going to be this bad. This is pretty tough. I didn't sign up for any of this.'

- Haven't you read your Bible?
- Hasn't God told us already what's happening?
- Hasn't God told us already what's coming down?

Store up canned goods and water! Get out of debt if possible, and, if possible, have six months of wages in savings. Further, if possible, have some silver coins.

Proverbs 11:4: "Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."

Proverbs 27:12: "A prudent *man* foresees the evil *and* hides himself, *but* the simple pass on *and* are punished."

Become a 'prepper'! Put some water and canned goods away, some fire starter, flour salt, coffee and toilet paper. Get your 'rocket stove.' Have first-aid stuff. Do some things to prepare yourself.

By the way, if you don't have everything, it doesn't really matter. Do you know that we didn't actually have toilet paper until 1857, and it didn't become commercially available until 1930. Two-ply—which we take for granted—didn't come around until 1992.

All of the years before the 1800s.... They say that the Chinese may have had toilet paper as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century and another document says

the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. What did people do for toilet paper before? *They used all kinds of things!* Cloth, paper, moss, leaves, silk, cornpone, snow, their hands, stones, seashells and the Romans used communal sponges.

Nothing is so bad that you can't survive through it as long as God is with you. You don't have to have store of toilet paper. If you run out, it's going to get a lot tougher. That is a trivial pursuit, a trivial concern.

When we look at that grander scope of things and realize what God is doing in our lives, He's training us and building our faith so that we can become His children, which is just a huge potential!

Read and believe Psa. 91. We have to be pragmatic. I just said to become a 'prepper.' By the way, the LDS have a free manual, which is very good, very thorough. I have one. They're free if you download it on PDF and just look up *LDS Preparedness Manual*

{[http://www.ldsemergencyresources.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/LDS\\_Preparedness\\_Manual\\_Complete.pdf](http://www.ldsemergencyresources.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/LDS_Preparedness_Manual_Complete.pdf)}

We have to be pragmatic and do the things that we can do. Have some money set aside, store up food and water as you're able to.

But that's not going to get through the tough times. Our mindset, our spiritually unification with God the Father and Jesus Christ, that is our fellowship! That's where we have to have our mind, be God-centered and totally around God. He's our target, our goal, our yardstick, our ruler. He's everything!

But **if** we don't keep Him solidly in mind, **then** that could be a problem for us, will be a problem for us. We must do what we can, but we must depend totally and wholly upon God! We must develop the faith that supersedes our weaknesses.

Playing video clip from *The Chosen*, as I specified earlier. This is a really good series and I encourage you to watch it if you get a chance. You can also find it on:

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>

It shows the emotion. This man was hopeless. Early on in this episode he goes in and trying to sell his work tools because he was a mason. He was seen to be a leper and was cast out. He had no hope. So, he come on the road looking for Jesus and he knows that Jesus could do it if Jesus wills. Here's Jesus walking with some of His disciples, John and a few others, and Mary Magdalene and the others were elsewhere at this point.

There's also an Ethiopian girl from Egypt who later lets down the paralytic through the roof. This is where she gets her introduction.

{This clip was shown by permission from *The Chosen*} to see you will have to watch the video of this message; approximately 3:38 minutes

I still tear up whenever I see that! That leper had no hope; he had no life. He was an outcast and was doomed. He was the ultimate lame duck, no potential and God healed him! Amazing!

God can heal *you!* You can be cleansed! Our potential is far greater than this life. Yet, we try to end this life. This life gives us trials, and God guides us through them just like He did the ancient Israelites where there were scorpions and serpents. Detractors, Gospel haters, dried desert, spiritual desert where this is no water. There will be people who will persecute us. There are problems coming!

The main reason there are problems is because of our actions. God punishes our actions because we are not living up to what His standards are and what He wants from us.

Leviticus 26:23: "And **if** after these things you will not be reformed by Me, but will still walk contrary to Me, **then** I will walk contrary to you and will punish you *seven times more* for your sins. And I will bring a sword on you that shall execute the vengeance of the covenant. And when you are gathered inside your cities, I will send the plague among you. And you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy" (vs 23-25).

Verse 28: "**Then** I will also walk contrary to you in fury. And I, even I will chastise you seven times for your sins."

God tells us why we are being punished. He tells us what the problems are and what's expected of us. He's told us to do certain things, yet, if we choose not to obey—as a nation, world, country, people, church, individual or family—God says, '**I will walk contrary to you, and punish you in fury.**' *Pretty scary!*

Philippians 1:27: "Only conduct yourselves worthily of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you, or am absent, I may hear the reports about you; **that you are standing fast in one spirit, striving together with one soul for the faith of the Gospel**, and not being intimidated in any way by those who oppose *the Gospel*; which to them is a demonstration of destruction, but to you of salvation, **and this from God**" (vs 27-28).

We're not supposed to be intimidated in any way by those who would oppose the Gospel. That it is granted for us to suffer. He's telling us in advance,

before hand, that we will suffer, that we must suffer. We must go through trials and tribulation, testing and persecution.

Psalm 50:15: “And call upon Me in the day of trouble; and I will deliver you, and you shall honor Me.”

Matthew 24:21: “For then shall there be Great Tribulation, such as has not been from *the* beginning of *the* world until this time, nor ever shall be *again*.”

Have you not seen the tortures and atrocities done down through time.

- what about the human testing that the Nazis did during WWII
- what about the Spanish Inquisition
- the barbarism of the Chinese tortures
- the American Indian tortures.

*Man can be so cruel one to another!* It’s so terrible. But worse tribulation than all that. We’re going to have suffer through the ‘iron maiden’ or the ‘rack’ being quartered and pulled apart by horses. You mean that we might have to pay the ultimate price with our lives? *That’s what I mean!* I’m just kind of setting the stage here for developing the faith to die in the faith!

Revelation 6:9: “And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony that they held.”

Before you get martyred, you have to get persecuted first.

Revelation 12:11: “But **they overcame him through the blood of the Lamb...** [that’s our defense; how we can win] **...and through the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death.**”

We have to prepare ourselves for the eventual outcome, that we can actually be martyred, slain, trounced, beheaded for the sake of the Gospel, the Truth and God! ***For His Word! For our testimony!*** It’s our testimony of continuing to assert and not relenting, not consenting to changing our position. Seeing it through to the end.

When that end comes, we have to be there in **mind, soul, body and spirit!** It’s not going to be easy! But possibly with God’s help we can do all things. ***With Christ, all things are possible!*** What happens next?

Revelation 13:7: “And he... [the beast] ...was given *power* to make war against the saints, and to overcome them; and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation.”

What is it that he’s doing? *Making war with the saints and he’s overcoming them!* He kills us’ puts us to death! But we still survive, still a remnant, a portion, of the Church still alive. You and I, we might have to give our lives for our faith. Are you ready? *Something to think about!*

Revelation 12:17: “Then the dragon was furious with the woman... [the Church] ...and went to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

He’s going to make war with us, but we have those two things:

1. we are keeping the commandments of God

There are those who say we don’t have to keep ‘those old commandment’ and that ‘we are trying to earn our salvation.’ ***NO!*** God says that we must please Him and obey Him!

2. we have the testimony of Jesus Christ in our heart

The beast comes, the mark of the beast comes, and we’ll be persecuted to take it. I don’t see how anybody cannot see or perceive how this ‘poke’ that’s currently being mandated (Covid 19 vaccine) for us is not a precursor to the mark of the beast!

How we are reacting to it is definitely forecasting what we’re going to do in the future. If you don’t take the mark of the beast you’ll have it made! Isn’t that wonderful?

Look, you can take the mark of the beast—get it in your hand or forehead—and you will be okay ***in this life! But you will forfeit your eternal life!***

Dan. 3 is such a powerful example. A lot of times we cite it, and I don’t want to just cite what they did.

Daniel 3:14: “Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said to them, ‘*Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego that you do not serve my gods nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now, if you are ready, at the time you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, zither, the lyre, harp, and bagpipe, and all kinds of music fall down and worship the image...* [Is this not a huge forecast of the mark of the beast?] ...which I have made. But if you do not worship immediately, you shall be thrown into the middle of a burning fiery furnace. And **who is that god who shall deliver you out of my hand?**” (vs 14-15)—*he sneered!*

Verse 16: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, ‘O

Nebuchadnezzar, **we have no need to answer a word to you** on this matter. If that *is the case*, **our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace**, and **He will deliver us out of your hand, O king**” (vs 16-17).

One way or the other, He will deliver us.  
*Our God is able to deliver us!*

Let’s say that you *don’t* take the mark of the beast. You may be slaughtered for your belief. Can you pay that price?

That’s the first part of the message, where you and I may be called to pay the ultimate price; and many people have paid that ultimate price for their cause, their nation, their tribe, their country, their belief, whatever it is.

*Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* is a tough read! Time after time the horrendous trials that people have gone through. Yet, we know that the Great Tribulation is going to be even worse.

- What is harder or more difficult than dying for the faith? *Living for the faith!*
- Are there things harder than dying? *Yes!*

*Living through* pain, abuse, oppression, rape, slavery, enduring to the end, staying faithful no matter what.

- Can we do that?
- What if we’re not called on to give our lives?
- What if we called upon to remain on this earth and suffer the Great Tribulation so that there will be a remnant of the Church so that the gates of hell can never prevail against it?

***It is huge thing to stand for Christ! To receive persecution and even die for God and for His cause!***

How many people have paid that ultimate price in death? In one sense if you die it’s wonderful, because your struggle is over, you no longer have to endure. You no longer have to struggle and fight against the oppression, evil, persecution and the horrendous problems that you’re enduring:

- living in a death camp
- facing starvation
- not enough water

*Name it!*

- How will we be tested in the end if we do not have to give our own lives?
- What if we’re not tested to the point of having to give our lives?
- Can we endure the pain of torture?

- Can we endure being constantly persecuted?
- Living through it?
- Going hungry because you cannot buy or sell?
- Eking out a living?
- Fleeing, on the run?
- Destitute?
- Isn’t that what the Waldensians had to do, flee their cities and go to another, or to the mountains?

*If you give your life to Christ and His way, then you’ve made it!*

Revelation 12:17: “Then the dragon was furious with the woman and **went to make war with the rest of her seed...**”

As Matt. 24:21 said, a Great Tribulation that’s far beyond anything that we have seen down through history. That’s that cold reality of what you and I are facing! I challenge you now to make the determination in your heart that you will stand tough. If you have to give your life, so be it! But if you don’t have to give your life, ***endure to the end!*** ***That’s a new level of faith!***

- How long must we endure?
- When will You return?
- Isn’t continuing in faith much harder?
- Isn’t continuing in faith far more difficult than just simply giving your life?

I was baptized into the death of Jesus Christ and committed to Him, and I’m committed to suffer with Him through ‘thick and thin’ but I didn’t sign up for this!

***We must brace ourselves now for the coming times ahead!***

So many times the messages on faith encourage us and they’re positive; that there is help. But that’s before it actually happens. The ‘rubber has not met the road’ for us, yet. But it has for some. Haven’t some Christian, even today, being beheaded for their faith?

Isaiah 30:12: “Therefore, thus says the Holy One of Israel, ‘Because you have despised this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and rely on them; therefore, this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. And He shall break it as the breaking of the potters’ vessel that *is* smashed in pieces. He shall not spare, so that there shall not be found in the fragments a shard to take fire from the hearth, or to take water out of the pit.’” (vs 12-14).

Verse 15: “For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; and in quietness and hope shall be your strength.’ **But you were not willing.**”

That’s mostly the situation for most people in the world today. They embrace the current truth, the counter culture, the re-writing of culture, the fakeness of re-writing history and all the challenges.

Doesn’t this sound like us (our nation) right after 9/11! For like two or three weeks, the synagogues and churches were filled. People were flying American flags, and then after two or three weeks, it died down. **There’s no true repentance!**

This is the coming time of the end; I don’t see how we cannot be living in the time of the end. By the way, if you died tomorrow, this is *your time* of the end!

1-Peter 4:7: “Now the end of all things has drawn near...”—*for us!* That’s our reality! We are facing a horrendous time to come. We have a scary potential! There’s hope at the end of the tunnel, though! There’s light at that end of the tunnel!

Psalms 103:1: “Bless the LORD, O my soul... [this should be our attitude] ...and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies” (vs 1-4).

God has known for a long time that hardship, suffering, trials and persecution brings out the best in people. It makes us turn to God! There’s an old saying, *‘There are no atheists in a foxhole!’*

It means that everybody realizes that at some point that there is a God, that somebody has made them and they have a Creator, and they have to turn to Him. It’s only through hardship that we’re brought to that reality.

- What have you lost?
- What sickness have you gained?
- Where are you in life?
- What is your trial?
- What is your test?

***God will see through! We have His promises!***

Verse 5: “Who satisfies your desires with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. **The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed**” (vs 5-6).

Was I not just speaking about the oppression that we’re going to be receiving? The persecution of times to come? At a time when God’s hand was on

us, if we submit to Him, He will execute judgment for us, for the righteous! He will give judgment to all of us who are oppressed.

Sometimes, when you go through a rough time, the little things make the difference. Sometimes when you’re going through a trial, your dog can come over and just put his head on your lap. Or you can see a little red bird, when everything else seemed gray before. You can see a little tiny puff of a cloud and just see God’s greatness and wonderment! You can see in a vast array of concrete, a little flower coming up between a crack. You know that God creates life! You can see the bud of new tree when it’s beginning to leaf.

All of these things focus us and point us to our Creator. All of these things can give us hope in the future. ***But not as much hope as the Bible gives us! Not as much hope as the promises that we see!***

Verse 9: “He will not always chasten... [we’re going to be tested hard, the **Great Tribulation**] ...nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (vs 9-10).

We don’t get the punishment that we deserve for our sins. We still sin, and God doesn’t strike us!

Verse 11: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (vs 11-12).

God gives us hope! Just like the hope of the leper when Jesus restored him and made him clean. Jesus can be telling us, in whatever sickness, trial, persecution, depth of depravity in the valley of death we’re facing and go through. That we endure and continue to endure to the end.

- not accepting death
- not loving our lives more than the Word of God

But through all these things, ***if*** we can continue and endure to the end, *God bestows His blessings on us!* He will deliver us!

If we do have to go through the Tribulation, the sickness and disease that’s present in this world today.... They already predicting the next virus to come. How can they determine that if it’s not a planned pandemic, just like this last one? They already have a vaccine for it. But in the vaccine is ricin, so they want to continue to kill more and more of the populous. I’ve been concerned about that for years about the Codex Alimentarius (look it up)!

The globalists want to reduce the population on the face of the earth, and have the rich elite stand and have a few slaves. Are we not lamenting?

Lamentations 3:17: “And my soul is removed far off from peace; I have forgotten happiness. And I said, ‘My strength and my hope from the LORD *are* perished.’ Remember my affliction and my anguish, the wormwood and bitterness of gall. My soul vividly remembers and is bowed down within me” (vs 17-20).

‘I remember the bad times; it’s not good, God. Please return, please send your Son, please come and elevate all this mess and horrendous problem.

Verse 21: “I recall this to my mind; therefore, I have hope.”

The hope that we have is based upon our experience, our answered prayers, the examples in the Bible, and the faith that we have built.

Verse 22: “*It is* by the LORD’S mercies that we are not destroyed, because His compassions never fail. *They are* new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. ‘The LORD *is* my portion,’ says my soul; ‘therefore, **I will hope in Him.**’ The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. *It is* good that one should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. *It is* good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth” (vs 22-27). **What is the yoke that we may be burdened with? We’ve already gone through it!**

We have a very realistic and very positive future. Our future is wonderful. But the future of this earth is the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. We pray that our children—yes, all mankind—may be able to escape the problems and the trials. If we don’t have to go through it, we don’t want our children to go through the Tribulation either.

Frankly, I don’t want any man to have to suffer and suffer. But that’s what God has prophesied, and it must happen! We know that God is true and every man a liar!

Verse 40: “Let us test and examine our ways, and return again to the LORD.”

This is like Passover, but this is daily, when you’re in trouble and trials, we examine our ways look to the Lord. We must pray

Luke 21:36: “Watch, therefore, *and* pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass...”

Isaiah 57:1: “...none considering that **the righteous are taken away from the evil to come.**”

Psalms 27:1: “The LORD is my Light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid; though war should rise against me, **even then I will be confident**” (vs 1-3).

Verse 5: “For in the time of trouble **He shall hide me in His pavilion,** in the secret place of His Tabernacle **He shall hide me;** He shall set me upon a Rock.”

Verse 11: “Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a level path because of my enemies. Deliver me not over to the will of my enemies, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and he that breathes out violence. I would have fainted unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall make your heart strong; yea, wait, I say, *wait* on the LORD” (vs 11-14).

**God will deliver you!** Even if we do have to suffer in death, or live through horrendous persecution! **God will deliver you!** God is holding you, nestling you in His arms like a mother loving her precious baby. Waiting on the Lord, being of good courage and making our heart strong is what we have to pray for. This is the attitude that He’s looking for in us.

That’s how God is proving us, like He was proving the ancient Israelites. He’s proving us to see whether or not we will trust in Him. We have to pray for deliverance so that you and your family and those of the Churches of God—the true Christians—can be delivered from trouble to come.

But if God chooses not to deliver us from the trouble to come, **we have to pray for God’s Holy Spirit, His strength to support us in weakness.** For His will in our lives. **That we never recant!** Pray for strength of character and be willing to sacrifice your very life. If you do not have to sacrifice your life, then **be willing to live for Christ!**

James 1:1: “Consider *it* all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.... [enduring to the end] ...But let endurance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything” (vs 1-3).

Verse 6: “But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all...” *When we’re in the throws of the trials and struggles that are coming, we can’t doubt! We have to have confident faith!* That’s what’s going to see us through!

Verse 12: “Blessed *is the* man who endures trials, because **after he has been proved he shall receive a crown of life**, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

God has promised us an everlasting promise! What a wonderful thing. If you're dead you will no longer have to endure the trials or anything. If we're dead, hopefully we will have made it by not recanting!

It is the living who must continue to suffer and strive against sin! It is the living who must strive, so determine now to endure to the end! Faithfully ask God for His help if you must stay alive through the coming Day of the Lord and the Great Tribulation.

Also pray that God Himself, Who personally chose you, will give you the strength to stand faithful to the end, to be able to suffer all the trials, tests, the persecutions, tortures, pains, sufferings, everything you must go through so that you can be a true witness for God *His way, and the Truth!*

If need be, endure to the end, living as a faithful example, faithful to the end.

### **Recap:**

- What will build our faith so that we can develop the faith, to give our lives? *If not that, then be willing to live to the end!*
- Rehearse the examples of God's deliverance, guidance and Providence to build your faith.
- Realize that sickness does not mean death. Prepare for the worst that's to come. realize that even though there's sickness, ***we will trust God!***
- Realize that we may die! Look at the first Christian martyr Stephen who died in the faith. Determine now to be willing to die for your faith no matter what.

but beyond that

- Determine that no matter what trials you have, you will stay faithful to God
- Pray for His strength, read and internalize some of these promises
- Believe and act with all your heart in your belief in Truth
- Determine now to have the faith in God so that even if you have to die for God, you will do it.
- Determine to develop your faith, endure to the end living in faithfulness.

***May God bless all of you with His strength in the terrible times to come!***

### Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 8:15-16
- 2) John 12:16, 37-40
- 3) Mark 6:52
- 4) Psalm 23:1-6
- 5) Psalm 138:7-8
- 6) Proverbs 11:4
- 7) Proverbs 27:12
- 8) Leviticus 26:23-25, 28
- 9) Philippians 1:27-28
- 10) Psalm 50:15
- 11) Matthew 24:21
- 12) Revelation 6:9
- 13) Revelation 12:11
- 14) Revelation 13:7
- 15) Revelation 12:17
- 16) Daniel 3:14-17
- 17) Revelation 12:17
- 18) Isaiah 30:12-15
- 19) 1 Peter 4:7
- 20) Psalm 103:1-6, 9-12
- 21) Lamentations 3:17-27, 40
- 22) Luke 21:36
- 23) Isaiah 57:1
- 24) Psalm 27:1-3, 5, 11-14
- 25) James 1:1-3, 6, 12

### Scripture referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 2
- Psalm 91

### Also referenced:

- Video series: *The Chosen*
- {<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> be} Also on YouTube
- *LDS Preparedness Manual*  
{[http://www.ldsemergencyresources.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/LDS\\_Preparedness\\_Manual\\_Complete.pdf](http://www.ldsemergencyresources.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/LDS_Preparedness_Manual_Complete.pdf)}
- Book: *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe

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