



Tests Surviving Life's Toughest Moments

Lesson One: Understanding Tests May 16 & 17

Ephesians 5:1 We come to God as sinners; but He wants to transform our habits, attitudes, and practices **into the ways of Jesus**: to live, forgive, and love as He did.
The Voice Bible

Understand/Navigate/**D**etach/**O**ppose

Life's Trouble Makers

Angry enemy

John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to **steal and kill and destroy**. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. ***New Living Translation***

Life's Trouble Makers

Decaying Creation

Romans 8:21 that **creation itself** would one day be set free from **its slavery to decay** and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God. ***New Living Translation***

Life's Trouble Makers

Destructive lifestyles

Galatians 6:7 Don't be misled; remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it: **a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows!** ***The Living Bible***

Life's Trouble Makers

∅ Sinful people

2 Timothy 3:13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. *New International Version*

Life's Trouble Makers

Imperfect people

Ecclesiastes 10:9 When you work in a quarry, **stones might fall** and crush you. When you chop wood, **there is danger with each stroke** of your ax. *New Living Translation*

Why does God allow us to be tested?

Tests exist to make us better, not bitter

Judges 3:1 Here is a list of the nations **the Lord left in the land to test** the new generation of Israel who had not experienced the wars of Canaan. *The Living Bible*

Judges 3:2 For God wanted to give opportunity to the youth of Israel **to exercise faith and obedience in conquering** their enemies:... **4** These people were a test to the new generation of Israel, **to see whether they would** obey the commandments the Lord had given to them through Moses. *The Living Bible*

James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when **troubles of any kind** come your way, consider it **an opportunity for great joy** *New Living Translation*

James 1:3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your **endurance has a chance to grow**. **4** So let it grow, for when your endurance is **fully developed**, you will **be perfect and complete, needing nothing**. *New Living Translation*

Endurance: Steadfast waiting

Endurance: Pursuing, loving, serving, believing, and worshiping God regardless of what's happening in our life

1 Thessalonians 5:16 **Always** be joyful. **17** Never stop praying. **18** Be thankful **in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. *New Living Translation*

Romans 5:3 And that's not all. We also celebrate in seasons of suffering because we know that when we suffer we develop endurance, **4** which **shapes our characters**. When our **characters are refined**, we learn what it means to **hope and anticipate God's goodness**. *The Voice Bible*

God wants your character to be stronger than your circumstances

Romans 8:28 And we know that **God causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. *New Living Translation*