

Will you be called good and faithful on test day?

- I. What is your proof that you are a Christian?
 - A. Story of **soft ball** sign up.
 1. They were there a long time allowing you to sign your child up.
 2. I asked woman how they had the time to be there so much?
 - a) She said it is all about **what your priorities are.**
 - B. If we took each others **check books** out what would we discover about each other.
 1. What we **spend our money on** says what we **value.**
 - C. If we looked at how each one of us **spent our time** this last week what would others say?
 1. Would we be **embarrassed about any of our time?**
 - D. If **we questioned** your **co-workers** would they be **surprised to find you at church this morning?**
 - E. Is **coming to church enough** to get you into heaven?
 - F. Is **being baptized enough** to please God.
- II. The Purpose of test James 1 **[TURN TO JAMES READ THRU VS 4]**
 - A. James's greeting
 1. Described as servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - B. Count it **all Joy.** James 1:2
 1. When you **fall** into trials NKJ, **encounter** NASB
 - a) various
 - b) meaning all kinds of trials
 - (1) loved one dies
 - (2) child falls away
 - (3) stock market crashes
 - (4) car wreck
 - (5) divorce
 - (6) tempted by world
 - C. Why count it all joy? James 1:3

1. Testing **produces patients** NKJ, endurance NASB
 2. What are some events in your life that were tragic
 - a) looking back at the **big stuff** it is **easier** to deal with **regular stuff**
- D. How can I be **perfect** and **complete**? James 1:4
1. **We must let patience have its perfect work.**
 2. **What does this mean?**
 - a) When we go **through trials** we are made **stronger** and more **equipped** to be a **servant of Christ**.
 - b) We must be willing to be proved as **Christ** was **in the wilderness**. Matthew 4:1-11 **[TURN TO MATTHEW 4]**
 - (1) Greek word here for tempted (peirazo) can also mean tested.
 - (2) God never tempts us with evil but does allow us to be tested by such which we typically bring on ourselves **James 1:13-15**.
 - c) We can see from the temptations of Jesus that He was tested all the way to the point of death. **40 Days is about as long as the human body can last**.
 - (1) **Matthew 4:9** Satan offers Jesus a **short cut**, a **possible way to bypass the cross**. Just bow down and worship me, satan says to Jesus. Jesus **responds with scripture each time**. (Deut. 8:3; 6:16; 6:13)
 - (2) When we are tempted **we should have a knowledge of God's word** and **be able to decide based on God's word** if something is ok or not.
 - (3) We need to have our **minds made up ahead of time as to what is ok or not**. **We are not as strong** as Christ in the face of temptation.
 - (4) When the devil makes things look good we should remember who we are dealing with. **[TURN TO JOHN 8]** John 8:41-44, **of your father the devil, who's native language is lying**. We can turn back to the garden and see satan's first fatal blow to mankind **Genesis 3:1-7**.

III. Conclusion

- A. Luke 6:46-49 **[TURN TO LUKE 6]**
 1. He that obeys my words is like a **well built house**.
 2. Trials of life help us to be **strong**.
 3. Helps our foundation to stand the **winds, rain, and storms of life**.
- B. On the final day will he say; **Matthew 25:31-41** or **25:42-46**