



Steve Gullickson November 19, 2023

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **James 1:2-4**

Living whole requires us to embrace and endure testing and trials, becoming mature and lacking nothing.

Jesus received His identity from the Father and then was led by the Spirit to be tested.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **Matthew 4:1**

Testing affirms and strengthens us.

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. **Romans 5:3-4**

Testing doesn't just strengthen us, it reveals us.

² Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Deuteronomy 8:2

Testing reveals if we are connected or disconnected with God's identity, our identity and the identity of others.

¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. **Luke 8:13-15**

How can I endure testing/trials and temptations?

1. **Know who you are and who you are not.**

True Identity vs. False Identity

2. **Know who Jesus is and who He isn't.**

3. **Abide in Christ.**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

4. **Endure in community.**

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. **Ecclesiastes 4:12**

Perseverance in testing produces maturity (perfection, wholeness, lacking nothing)

The deeper you go in testing and trials, the less you have to fear on the other side.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. **Psalms 23:4**