

# "PASSING the TEST of LIFE"

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Life is full of tests and trials. As a teenager you face tests every day. Will you pass the tests of life... or will you get an "F"???

## James 1:2-4 NIV

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

## James 1:12 NIV

*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

What do these verses mean to us???

### 1. Your faith gets tested.

During your life as a Christian, your faith will get tested. There are many kinds of tests you will go through. Let's talk about some of them.

- A. **Trials**- Sometimes hard times will affect you. Some of us here may be very familiar with trials. You may have gone through tough times in your family. Maybe your parents have divorced and you've went through the pain of seeing one of them leave. Or your family has had financial struggles, and there have been times you haven't even had enough money to eat. Sometimes trials come in the form of a friend or relative dieing, or worse they are alive but they turn their back on you, and you can't understand why. There are many kinds of trials... Eventually everyone faces some kind of trial.
- B. **Peer Pressure**- Here's a big one. Your classmates at school, especially your closest friends, have an influence on you. Many of them aren't Christians, and so they don't see things the way you do. They probably already know you are a Christian, so what if

they tell a dirty joke... do you laugh at it just to fit in at the lunch table??? What if some of the "cool kids" at your school are making fun of the new kid? Sure, she's a geek and she wears the weirdest clothes. She's easy prey, SOO easy to pick on. What would you do??? Do you join in on the fun, and crack a joke about her crooked nose??? It's so easy to join in the crowd... even when the crowd is going the wrong direction. It wasn't long ago I was in high school. I know what its like to want to fit in, but also to believe in Jesus. It takes a lot of guts to stand up against peer pressure... sometimes I made the right choices, and other times I just went with the flow... I wasn't perfect then, and I'm not now, but I try to do right.

Only you can decide what you will do in every situation that comes your way. Only you have the power to stand up for what is right, or to give in to the crowd. Only you can decide if you will persevere.

## 2. **You persevere** (stand firm, endure patiently and cheerfully)

per·se·ver·ance   [Pronunciation Key](#) (pûr'sə-vîr'əns)


*n.* Steady persistence in adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose; steadfastness.

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I like that definition, to persevere is to be steadfast. That means that no one can shake your faith. No matter what happens in life... you know what is true, and you stand on it. Christ is the ROCK you stand on and nothing will shake your trust in Him. Don't we all need perseverance??? HECK yes!!!

**The KJV uses the word patience (instead of perseverance NIV.)**

**hupomone**, Greek 5281, Strong's

**hupomone**,  *hoop-om-on-ay'*; from Greek 5278 (hupomeno); cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy :- enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

The important thing is that as we stand firm, we do it with the right attitude. Our perseverance during trials should always be with a cheerful patience. We should stand firm with a smile on our face and peace in our hearts.

**Example of what NOT to do:** There was once a 14 year old boy named Benny. He carried his Gigantic BIBLE everywhere he went. When Benny went to school he would walk up to total strangers during lunch break and tell them that they would go to HELL if they didn't receive Jesus immediately. Of course they would always make fun of Benny and call him names. Benny thought he was pretty special, he knew that he was right and everyone else was wrong and would burn in HELL!!!! Benny thought that it was just "persecution" when people rejected him... That was not the case. Benny was not being rejected because of his faith... Benny was being rejected because his attitude and his presentation were WRONG.

It is important for us as believers to stand firm for our faith, but we have to do it out of a loving heart and a positive attitude. We don't want to be like Benny who made Christians look like idiots. We should persevere during the tests of our life... and we should be able to do it with a smile!!!

### **3. You win the prize!!!**

When we've proven ourselves faithful to Christ and we persevere to the end of our lives, then we receive a crown of life. In life there will be tests. If you pass them, you will be rewarded by Jesus himself. Keep your faith in Jesus no matter what and you will win!!!