



Prayer Focus

July 25-31, 2022

Testing

"² Consider it nothing but joy, my brethren, whenever you fall into various trials. ³ Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4 AMP

Whether we have played a sport, a musical instrument, or tried any new skill (cooking, climbing, reading, writing, fishing), we know that there is only one way to improve – practice. We have had to learn and do the “basics” over, and over, and over again before we gained any level of competence. It is no different in spiritual growth and especially the growing of our faith.

This perspective has helped me grapple with the difficulty and resistance my spirit and mind has had to “testing.” Trials are difficult, and they test our faith, but they produce endurance and strength. Our faith grows. Enduring trials with this perspective make us thankful for God’s loving allowance of testing as He seeks to help us grow into perfection.

As a basketball player, I respected my coach for making me run laps, do various line drills to condition (such as “killer”), and other repetitive and difficult ballhandling and strengthening basketball skills. I remember pushing through and growing in strength and endurance. The more conditioned we were as a team, the better we played and the fewer turnovers we had. We never thought our coach was truly trying to

kill us (despite our protestations). We knew he was working us to make us better. Neither did we think the pain would never be over. We knew there would be an end and we would survive - stronger. We actually relished the difficulty knowing it was good for our bodies. How much more should we trust our loving heavenly Father, who allows various trials in our lives, but walks beside us, even carrying us through them, and seeks only our good and our growth?

- Melody Divine

Pray

- Give thanks to the Lord for His everlasting lovingkindness.
- Ask the Lord for joy in the midst of whatever trial or trials you are facing, and the assurance that the testing of faith will produce endurance.
- Pray for the body of Christ to testify to the Lord's goodness, even in the midst of trial, as He builds our faith and uses us as a testimony on the earth. May Jesus have all the glory. Amen.

It is well with my soul

https://youtu.be/AHe_qmo3gX4

It is well (Kristine DiMarco) / You make me brave

<https://youtu.be/YNqo4Un2uZI>

Events

Prayer Force Website: <http://www.prayerforce.live/>

[Prayer Force Room Sign-Up](#)

Prayer Force Equipping Hour – Every other Tuesday at 1:00pm, Pacific