

From Trouble to Triumph, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: James 1.

II. Abraham endured probably one of the greatest tests ever. (Genesis 22)

A. After passing the test, God said that he knew Abraham truly feared God.

B. The key to passing the test is faith. Abraham believed that Isaac could raise the dead. (Hebrews 11)

C. A man can face the greatest trials if he really trusts God. (Galatians 3:7, 9, Psalm 30:6)

III. Trials come...

A. To test the strength of our faith. God tests us so that we can know the strength of our faith. (2 Chronicles 32:31, Habakkuk 3, Job 42)

B. To humble us. (2 Corinthians 12:7)

C. To wean us away from worldly things. (John 6:6)

D. To make us want to go to heaven. (Romans 8:23-24, 2 Corinthians 4:16)

E. To evaluate our love.

1. If anything is nearer to us than God, he has a tendency to remove it.

2. The Lord tests us to see us whether we really love him. (Deuteronomy 12, Luke 14:26)

F. To value the blessings of God. (Psalm 63:3, Hebrews 5, Philippians 2)

G. To enable us to help others in their suffering. (Luke 22, Hebrews 2)

H. To develop enduring strength for greater usefulness.

IV. Means to persevering.

A. A joyous attitude.

B. An understanding mind.

C. A submissive will.

D. A believing heart.

E. A humble spirit.

Application Questions:

1. How is Abraham a supreme example in trial?

2. Which purpose for suffering gives you the most comfort?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that the presence of suffering is evidence that God does not exist? Explain.
