

TESTING IN THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE (part one)
(Testing by God)

Notice that the words, trials and temptations, are used six times and a marker in our lesson text (James 1:12-14). It is the Greek word peirazo (verb) and peirasmos (noun).

The Greek word Peirasmos means to test or to assess something to determine its true value.

We will examine our lesson text by three homiletic points of Testing in the Christian Way of Life.

(James.1:12) Testing by God

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord^{la} has promised to those who love him.

(James 1:13) Testing (not by God) but by Satan

No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one.

(James 14-15) Testing by one's lust trends of their Old Sin Nature

But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

This lesson will study two of five areas of Testing in the Christian Way of Life.

1. The 1st area of testing in the Christian Way of Life is by God to develop a believer's spiritual growth capacity through the application of the faith cycle.

One way that God uses is through Undeserved Suffering.

(Phil.1:29) "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." (James.1:2-4; Acts 14:22)

Those believers who finish the race set before them will receive a crown.

- Crown of Life (Heb.12:2; James.1:12)
- Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim.4:7-8)
- Crown of Glory (1 Pet.5:4)
- Crown of Boasting (1 Thess.2:19-20; Phil.4:1)

(Rom.5:3-5) "And not only this, but we also exult (kauchaomai) [Praise God] in our tribulations (thlipsis) [Different categories of hardships for the sake of Christ] (2 Cor.11:23-28), knowing that:

- tribulation brings perseverance:
 - and perseverance, proven character;
 - and proven character, hope;
 - and hope does not disappoint,

- **because** the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
2. **The 2nd area of testing in the Christian Way of Life is by Satan to solicit for evil.**

This testing is designed to get the believer to think and act against the Directive Will of God.

I refer to it as Cosmos Diabolicus or “Worldly Thinking” (Gen.3:1-6; 2 Cor.11:3; Job 1-2; Rev.2:10)
(Much like the Church of Smyrna)

Jesus was tempted by Satan and defeated him in (Matt.4:1-11) where Satan is called the tempter (ho peirazon) (Matt.4:3; 1 Thess.3:5).

Peter got caught in Satan’s trap in (Matt.16:21-23) and other examples can be found in (1 Tim.3:6; 2 Tim.2:26; Luke 15:17).