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Sermon – Faith Put to the Test

Scripture – Romans 9:30-33, Isaiah 64:6

Main Message – A successful faith test is one where we are led by the Holy Spirit

Why does God test our faith? Isn't life hard enough without further difficulties? If I were to ask you how God has tested your faith, could you give a good answer? Pause for a moment and think on that. You may say, "I had an illness, or I was scared, or I had a broken relationship, or maybe I lost my means to provide. These are crisis events and in such cases I would give you something to consider here. These things start with "I" and that means you already might have placed yourself in charge of the fix.

What happens often is that we take charge of the situation to get the result we think we should have and making it about our effort and not that of faith. This is perhaps the foundation of worry. Worry makes some of us freeze and some of us take action based on our own intellect. Which is better? Neither. The best result is to pursue faith first and that which comes from the true source: Lord Jesus.

Read Romans 9:30-33.

The law, and I'm talking about the whole law and not just the ten commandments has great value. I'm talking about what is called the Torah, the first five books of our Bible and the lessons learned in there.

Think about what we know about the nation of Israel? The worried about everything and in many cases took it upon themselves to create a solution. God does mighty wonders, gets them out of Egypt in a miraculous way, and then the grumbling came. They wanted food, water, a god that they made with their own hand. They didn't pursue faith. They pursued works by their own hands. When Moses brought down the ten commandments now they had something else that in the long haul kept tripping them up. They wanted righteousness by their own hand by doing good according to the law. That also is a big fail. Folks try to be good all the time. So what! That is not the source of our righteousness at all. In fact.

Isaiah 64:6 says All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Therefore, when our faith is tested, trust in the Lord. That is step one. There is no step two when it comes to FAITH..

[Psa 115:11 KJV] 11 Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he [is] their help and their shield.

[Psa 118:8-9 KJV] 8 [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. 9 [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

[Pro 3:5 KJV] 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

[Pro 29:25 KJV] 25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

God tests our faith by educating us on what we believe and where we put our trust. He's God, so HE already knows. He tests our faith so WE WILL KNOW where we need to strengthen our faith. To do this we have to unlearn a lot, which is one of the hardest things for us all to do.

We have to unlearn how to worry, how to fear, how to pursue even being righteous. We must learn how to Trust in the Lord and believe all that is written about Him. AMEN