

Review:

1. Test 1 – Have I experienced godly sorrow that produces repentance?
2. Test 2 – Has my repentance produced fruit?

And now Test 3...

Test 3: Has my faith persevered through trials?

Just as a note: no rush on this test as I believe it's our first test that will take two weeks to cover.

The test is worded this way for a reason. There are a few reasons I couldn't say, "Have I persevered through trials?"

1. First, life on this side of heaven means being exposed to trials. Even the most ungodly person has experienced – and survived – some number of trials.
2. Second, some believers don't survive trials. Cancer – as well as many other diseases and sicknesses – are trials that claim the lives of many people.

So it's not a question of whether WE do – or don't – survive trials. It's a question of whether our faith survives – or perseveres – through trials.

Please look at **James 1:2**...

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

There's a very important truth contained in these verses that I want to make sure we notice: trials **test our faith!** Please make sure you see that!

The New Testament was primarily written in Greek, and I want to teach you two Greek words. As I read the definition of each word, I want to ask you to do two things:

1. First, listen for the repetition of the words *try*, *trial*, *test* and *prove*.
2. Second, consider how similar the definitions are to each other.

The first Greek word is the word for **trials** in **James 1:2** and that word is *peirasmos* (pr: pie-ross-moss). It occurs 21 times in the NT. It means: "*a trial, proving: adversity, affliction, trouble sent by God and serving to test or prove one's character, faith, holiness.*"

The second Greek word is the word for **testing** in **James 1:3** when it says **knowing that the TESTING of your faith produces patience.**

The word is *dokimion* (pr: doh-key-me-on) and it only occurs here and in **1 Pet 1:7**, which is the other important place in Scripture we need to consider for this test. It means, "*the proving; that by which something is tried or proved, a test.*"

John MacArthur said it means, "*to put someone or something to the test with the purpose of discovering the person's nature or the thing's quality.*"