

Testing of Faith

James 1:3
because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

God Persuades

Romans 8:38-39 NKJV
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:4
4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

What We Are Looking For
is Already Here!

Part 5: Access



December 11, 2022

Advent Reading

Luke 2:1-21 NLT

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds

told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18 All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, 19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. 20 The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Seven Core Desires and Longings

1. Acceptance – to be included, loved, and approved of as you are, no matter what.
 2. Assurance of Safety – to feel safe, protected, and provided for emotionally, physically and financially.
 3. Affirmation of Feeling – to have our feelings affirmed, validated, or confirmed by others.
 4. Affection – to be cared for with gentle touch or emotional engagement.
 - 5. Access – to have consistent emotional and physical presence of key figures.**
 6. Attention – to be known and understood with someone entering your world.
 7. Appreciation – to be thanked, or encouraged for what you have done.
- Free to Thrive*, Josh McDowell and Ben Bennett

Healing is not the resolution of our past; it is the use of our past to draw us into deeper relationship with God and his purposes for our lives.
(Dan Allender, *The Healing Path*)

Consider It All Joy

James 1:2-4 NIV

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Heheomai

Greek word for consider, actually an accounting term.