

trying in a feeble way. But it is important to see that the discipline of testing is not making a tough spot for yourself and then seeing how God will bring you through it. (See 1 Peter 4) The testing of which we speak is the Lord allowing you to be brought to grips with yourself in your own life situation that you might emerge stronger for him.

2. Testing: How does it express itself? Generally it tends to put us in a hard situation (where we feel no one has ever been before) and challenge us to act responsibly. It offers the old/new character challenge. Some tests differ--not all come in the stress area but it basically expresses itself by making us look and feel weak or inept. It expresses the idea that we cannot do or be some particular thing and then we may feel challenged to take some drastic step to prove it wrong. But there are other expressions of testing when one must weigh two good matters and elect the course that will work for others and not just himself. It is not a sharp decision between good and evil but between good and good. That is often the hardest test of all.

3. Testing: What does it teach us? It quickly teaches us humility. It also teaches courage and accomplishment. In a very positive way it teaches us the meaning of vicariousness since others are invariably blessed when we have endured and mastered in testing. As with adversity it teaches us the goodness and wisdom of God in a very positive and emphatic manner.

4. Testing: How is it met? In the concepts of the Biblical passages in this lesson, it is met with trust in God and rejoicing in the portion of life he has entrusted to us. It is not to be met boastfully or with a great surge of self-assurance. But with humility, trust, joy, and with a desire to study the thing in full for complete benefits later, testing is to be met.