

C. Conclusion

It is rather easy to talk philosophically or spiritually about testing. But it is part of every believer's life. It may come in strange forms and the expression may be peculiar from party to party. But as character is demonstrated, testing will develop; us as will nothing else. It is a curious exercise that always works well for the patient believer. James has said it far more beautifully than any of us when he says of it:

Count it all 'joy.

V. The Discipline of Conviction

Basic Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 9

Romans 7

1 John 3

A. Introducing the Subject:

1. Not every discipline is external although many are. The internal disciplines are much harder to treat but are very important. In this case we might call it the discipline of conscience but that raises problems with the "conscience of sins" concept. So our terminology is that of "conviction." It is an internal discipline that trains one in some key areas of life.

2. Conviction of course is a bit subjective by nature. Some people will feel a matter keenly that others will throw off with no affect. So in this discipline we are not discussing emotional attitudes towards wrong doing...but the activities in the heart created by the Spirit of God that challenge us in our growth and dedication.

3. We use the term popularly this way in most of our circles today. "Under conviction" may describe the sinner coming to Christ, the Christian yielding to the Divine will, or the backslider