

Introduction: (1 Thes. 3:1-2, 5-7, 10; Mt 9:29; Mt 13:58)

Four Practical "Faith Tests"

Test #1 – “Am I doing this for the glory of God, or just to please myself?”

Rom. 4:20-21 “Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Test #2 – “Am I rushing ahead of God, or am I willing to wait?”

Lam 3:24-26 “I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” ²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”

Test #3 – “Can I defend what I am doing from the Word of God?”

Rom 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

Test #4 – “As I consider this decision, do I have joy and peace within?”

Rom 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

(Adapted from Warren Wiersbe; *The Strategy of Satan; How to detect him & defeat him.*)

Series: *Making a Stand*

Study Questions #5: "For Living by Faith"

There is a better way to live, grounded in a daily principled approach with the Word of God as our guide. The Apostle Paul confirmed this when he wrote in his letter to Timothy, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*" (2 Tim 3:16)

(Please read and discuss the following principles and supporting verses.)

Faith Principle #1 Be a Good Steward (Read Mt 25:21)

- The office of stewardship was instituted by God when He gave man dominion over His creation. (*Genesis 2:15*)
- Everything that we have is a gift from God. It has only been granted to us for a time and a season. (*Deuteronomy 8:17-18*)
- Above all else we are trusted stewards of the mysteries and the grace of God. (*1 Corinthians 4:1-2 & 1 Peter 4:10*)

Faith Principle #2 Avoid negative speak and toxic conversations.

- Do not speak with arrogance, empty flattery and hidden motives; those are things that the Lord despises. (*Psalms 12:2-3*)
- A soft respectful answer is always the best approach, especially in volatile situations. (*Proverbs 15:1-2*)
- Remember, that will be held accountable for our words. (*Mt 12:36-37*)
- Do not be fooled, even within the church toxic conversations and divisions can be found. (*Romans 16-17-18*)
- Let your speech be wholesome and uplifting, absent of malice and contempt. (*Colossians 4:6*)
- Remember, sweet and bitter water cannot flow from a fountain at the same time. (*James 3:10-12*)

Faith Principle #3 Live with gratitude.

- That which occupies the heart and mind first thing in the morning often will persist throughout the day. (*Psalms 5:3*)
- Let everyday be day of thanksgiving. For God's goodness, mercy and truth spans across generations (*Psalms 118:24, 28-29*)
- Even in the face of adversity praise and magnify God with a thankful heart. (*Psalms 69:29-32*)
- God's mercy abounds continually. Let our lives reflect that gratitude. (*Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17*)

Further Discussion: *What are some additional Biblical principles that immediately come to mind, that we need to note and live by?*