

This Is A Test

...count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

We are all tested because...

1. It's that time.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs.

Romans 8:22 (MES)

2. It's God's timing.

...God does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what he is doing.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)

3. It's God's plan for good.

God controls the times and the seasons. He makes and unmakes kings.

Daniel 2:21 (GN)

Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

How to respond to God's times of testing...

1. Stay Productive

Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties these days.

Ephesians 5:15-16 (Ph)

2. Stay Mindful

Remember what you have learned about the Lord through your experiences with him.

Deuteronomy 11:2 (GN)

[This happened] ...so we might learn to trust, not in ourselves, but God...

2 Corinthians 1:9 (Ph)

3. Stay Hopeful

People ought to enjoy every day of their lives.

Ecclesiastes 11:8 (NCV)

Give thanks in all circumstances; this is God's will for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:11 (NIV)

4. Stay Fruitful

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)