



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

## Short Study 040: Seven Tests of Faith

Study Author: Michael Button

**Read** James 1:2-4; 1 Pet 1:1-7.

**Introduction.** Faith is the bedrock of the Christian life, on which our salvation, hope and assurance, and godly characters are built (Eph 2:8; Gal 5:/Heb 11:1; 2 Pet 1:5). Faith, therefore, needs to be strong, which is why it has to be 'tested'. This 'testing' of faith is not so that God can see if it is genuine or not (He already knows that!) but to 'refine' it, i.e. to bring it to a state in which it is our sole reliance, devoid of all that is not of faith or misdirected faith.

The following passages show seven ways in which the faith of biblical characters was tested. See if you identify the forms in which the tests came. (I would be interested to see if your conclusions are the same as mine\*. Email me on [michael@learn-your-bible.org.uk](mailto:michael@learn-your-bible.org.uk) and we can compare notes. I'd love to hear of any other examples of faith being tested that you come across in Scripture.)

1. Joshua (Joshua 6:1-5).
2. Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:12-14).
3. King Jehoshaphat (2 Kings 3:16-17).
4. Job (Job 1:21 & 2:7).
5. The Psalmist (probably David) (Psalm 10:1).
6. Jairus (Mark 5:22-36).
7. Abraham (Heb 11:11).

**To think about:** If you have a trouble-free life you are rare creature indeed! Can some, at least, of your troubles be down to God allowing them to test your faith? What can you do to let the tests have their desired effect?

### To dig deeper:

1. What part does Satan play in testing believers? (Note: 'Tempt' in James 1:13 can also mean 'test', but all reliable Bible versions render it as 'temp' as the correct meaning in its context.)
2. Read about the process of refining gold and silver and compare this to testing of faith.

\* They are not strictly mine, as I was dependant on some old notes from Birmingham Bible Institute that I retained, the author which I cannot recall.