

"We are not
trying to please
people but God,
who tests our
hearts."

Sermon Outline
May 31, 2015
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There's No Testimony Without a Test

1 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Life is a _____!

**You can't really be sure if you have faith
until it feels like you don't and you keep
on _____.**

Matthew 9:29 - Jesus said, "According to your faith it will be done unto you."

**When you are tested you find out if
your faith is _____.**

1. THE _____ TEST

**This test answers the question, "What happens
when stress becomes _____?"**

**Will I depend on myself or other things, or will
I depend on God?**

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 - We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.

2. THE _____ TEST

**This test answers the question, "How do I
handle _____?"**

**Do I depend on myself or other people MORE
than I depend on God?**

2 Timothy 4:16-18 - At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.

3. THE _____ TEST

**This test answers the question, "Am I
_____?"**

**Do my circumstances determine my level of
commitment?**

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Paul's laundry list of challenging circumstances:

Imprisoned frequently, 5 times flogged severely, 3 times beaten with rods, stoned and left for dead, shipwrecked 3 times, spent a night and a day in the open sea, in danger from rivers, bandits, his fellow Jews, Gentiles, in the city, in the country, at sea, and even from false believers, worked diligently, often without sleep, hungry, thirsty, cold and naked. **2 Corinthians 11:23-27**

How are you being tested?
Faith should always supersede

_____.