

🔖 The Unsurpassed Intimacy of Tested Faith

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Every time you venture out in your life of faith, you will find something in your circumstances that, from a commonsense standpoint, will flatly contradict your faith. But **common sense is not faith, and faith is not common sense.** In fact, they are as

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" —[John 11:40](#)

different as the natural life and the spiritual. Can you trust Jesus Christ where your common sense cannot trust Him? Can you venture out with courage on the words of Jesus Christ, while the realities of your commonsense life continue to shout, "It's all a lie"? When you are on the mountaintop, it's easy to say, "Oh yes, I believe God can do it," but you have to come down from the mountain to the demon-possessed valley and face the realities that scoff at your Mount-of-Transfiguration belief (see [Luke 9:28-42](#)). Every time my theology becomes clear to my own mind, I encounter something that contradicts it. As soon as I say, "I believe 'God shall supply all [my] need,'" the testing of my faith begins ([Philippians 4:19](#)). When my strength runs dry and my vision is blinded, will I endure this trial of my faith victoriously or will I turn back in defeat?

**Faith must be tested, because it can only become your intimate possession through conflict.** What is challenging your faith right now? The test will either prove your faith right, or it will kill it. Jesus said, "Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me" ([Matthew 11:6](#)). The ultimate thing is confidence in Jesus. "We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning

of our confidence steadfast to the end..." ([Hebrews 3:14](#)). Believe steadfastly on Him and everything that challenges you will strengthen your faith. **There is continual testing in the life of faith up to the point of our physical death, which is the last great test.** Faith is absolute trust in God— trust that could never imagine that He would forsake us (see [Hebrews 13:5-6](#)).

**Comment:** *Most of us do not want the testing of faith. We like it just fine when everything is going well. But, where's the value in that, as far as faith is concerned. We don't have to have this unseen belief that God will see us through this or that ordeal, if we are never presented with an ordeal to go through. But that isn't how it works. God wants to prove to us that his promises are true... that he will never leave us or forsake us. For that to happen, we have to have a few "bumps in the road" as we go through this life.*