

Faith: Tested and True



**Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
Summer, 2020**

Faith: Tested and True

The Trial of Our Faith

*Beloved, do not be surprised
at the fiery ordeal among you,
which comes upon you for your testing,
as though some strange thing were happening to you;
but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ,
keep on rejoicing,
so that at the revelation of His glory
you may rejoice with exultation
1 Peter 4:12-13 (NASB)*

Trinity Bible Church
Portland, Oregon
Summer, 2020

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Faith: Tested and True

The essential and central truth in the work of salvation in the believer is found in this statement: “The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17). It is by faith that we come into possession of eternal salvation, and by faith that we live each day of our Christian pilgrimage. We are saved by the gift of faith in Jesus Christ and we live daily by entrusting ourselves to the goodness of our heavenly Father.

Although faith is a gift of God that is completely sufficient for our eternal salvation, the Bible teaches that this saving faith is also progressive. Scripture teaches that this gift of faith can be little or great, weak or strong, firm, strengthened, or even perfected. The Christian life begins with little faith and progressively moves toward stronger faith. It is not lacking in bringing us to true and complete salvation, but our child-like saving faith grows, enabling us to stand firm and increasingly be more confident in God’s Word and His ways with us each day. This process occurs through our growth in understanding the truths of our Triune God and His great work of salvation. It is for this reason we are admonished in Scripture to read, memorize, and meditate upon the Word of God. It is for this reason that our God has provided gifted believers to preach and teach the Word “until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). It is for this reason that we are exhorted that we must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25).

But there is more. The Bible teaches that the Christian life is characterized by the testing of our faith. We face challenges to the validity of the faith which God has given us, and challenges to the truthfulness of the God upon whose promises we have entrusted our eternal destiny. The goal of this testing is not to destroy or undermine our faith, but to show that it is real, and to cause it to increase in strength. It will expose the futility of false faith, but cause true faith to progress from weak to great, that we may stand firm in confidence in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is of critical importance for each believer to understand these two aspects of the life of faith: the process of growing faith, and the process of testing faith. Both are under the full control of our heavenly Father who has made clear that He is good by the display of His great love already displayed in the gift of Jesus Christ to die for us. Thus, although the trials of our faith can be severe, the outcome for a true believer is assured so that we can say with Job, “But He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

We will look at two aspects of this process of the testing and proof of our faith. Eight lessons will explore the ways of Satan. He is devoted to opposing the work of God in saving sinners and destroying the faith of believers. We will study his origin. We will see how Satan successfully tempted the first man and woman and brought all of God’s creation under the curse of God. We will see how he sorely tested righteous Job, and even the Son of God in the flesh. We will see what Jesus taught about the work of Satan, and then see instances of his work in the early church. We want to learn the ways of Satan so that we can better heed the warning of the apostle Peter, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

In the middle of this study of Satan’s ways, we will look at the testing of faith in the often neglected book of Lamentations. In this book, Jeremiah seeks to understand the outpouring of the wrath of God upon Jerusalem by Babylon. He does not question the justice of God in His dealing with the rebellious house of Israel, but views it from the perspective of the righteous remnant who do not deserve what they are experiencing. This was truly a severe trial of the faith of true believers and it produced one of the greatest displays of faith in YHWH found in all of Scripture. It is particularly relevant to us today, because much of the testing of our faith comes upon true believers when we share the consequences of God’s acts of judgment that He brings upon fallen creation. In the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah will help us learn to trust in God our Savior, despite the distress of the trials we face.

The common theme in all of these lessons is revealed in the life of Peter when the Lord predicted the testing of Peter’s faith when he would deny His Savior: “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:31-32). Like Peter, we must learn that our faith, which is a gift of God, continues to rest upon the power of God.

*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,
and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and for ever. Amen.*

Jude 24-25

Schedule

June 7, 2020	Lesson 1: Lucifer Cast Out Isaiah 14:12-21; Ezekiel 28:11-19
June 14, 2020	Lesson 2: The Serpent in Paradise Genesis 3
June 21, 2020	Lesson 3: Consider Job! Job 1-2
June 28, 2020	Lesson 4: Days of Affliction and Homelessness Lamentations 1
July 5, 2020	Lesson 5: Has YHWH Determined to Destroy His People? Lamentations 2
July 12, 2020	Lesson 6: YHWH is Good to Those Who Wait for Him Lamentations 3
July 19, 2020	Lesson 7: YHWH Will Punish Iniquity Lamentations 4
July 26, 2020	Lesson 8: Remember Us, O YHWH Lamentations 5
August 2, 2020	Lesson 9: The Temptation of Jesus Matthew 4:1-11
August 9, 2020	Lesson 10: The Enemy and the Kingdom Matthew 13:1-30; 36-43
August 16, 2020	Lesson 11: Demons Cast Out Luke 8:26-39
August 23, 2020	Lesson 12: The Father of Lies John 8:31-59
August 30, 2020	Lesson 13: Satan in the Early Church Acts 5:1-11; 16:16-34; 19:11-20

Scripture Memorization

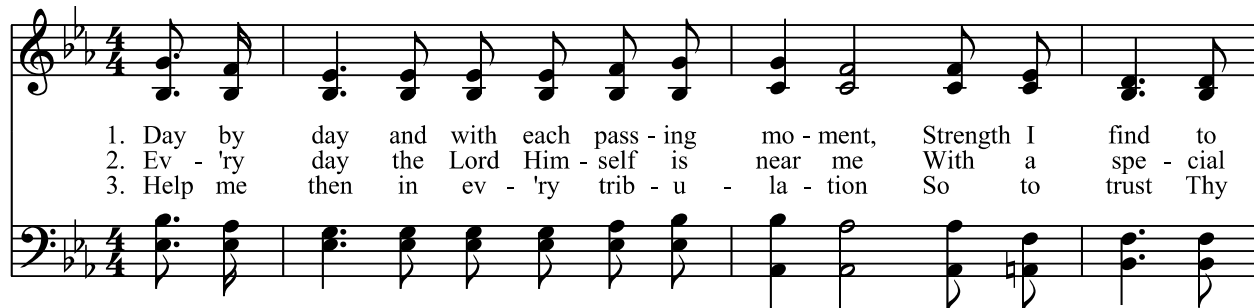
Lamentations 3:19-26

19. Remembering mine affliction and my misery,
the wormwood and the gall.
20. My soul hath them still in remembrance,
and is humbled in me.
21. This I recall to my mind,
therefore have I hope.
22. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed,
because His compassions fail not.
23. They are new every morning:
great is Thy faithfulness.
24. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul;
therefore will I hope in Him.
25. The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him,
to the soul that seeketh Him.
26. It is good that a man should
both hope and quietly wait
for the salvation of the LORD.

Day by Day

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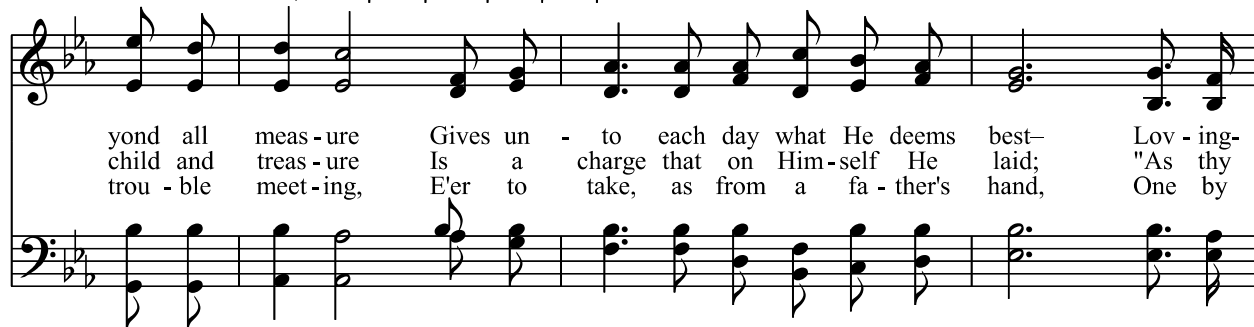
1. Day by day and with each pass - ing mo - ment, Strength I find to
2. Ev - 'ry day the Lord Him - self is near me With a spe - cial
3. Help me then in ev - 'ry trib - u - la - tion So to trust Thy



meet my tri - als here; Trust - ing in my Fa - ther's wise be - stow - ment,
mer - cy for each hour; All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
prom - is - es, O Lord, That I lose not faith's sweet con - so - la - tion



I've no cause for wor - ry or for fear. He whose heart is kind be -
He whose name is Coun - sel - lor and Pow'r. The pro - tec - tion of His
Of - fered me with - in Thy ho - ly Word. Help me, Lord, when toil and



yond all meas - ure Gives un - to each day what He deems best - Lov - ing -
child and treas - ure Is a charge that on Him - self He laid; "As thy
trou - ble meet - ing, E'er to take, as from a fa - ther's hand, One by



ly, its part of pain and pleas - ure, Min - gling toil with peace and rest.
days, thy strength shall be in meas - ure," This the pledge to me He made.
one, the days, the mo - ments fleet - ing, Till I reach the prom - ised land.

Lesson 1: Lucifer Cast Out Isaiah 14:12-21 & Ezekiel 28:11-19

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: In their prophecies against the kings of Babylon and Tyre, these two prophets portray for us the origin and end of Satan. He was created by God as Lucifer, the perfect and beautiful cherub who ministered before the very presence of God. Although highly exalted in the heavens, he coveted a higher place. He wanted to be above God. Therefore, God cast him out of heaven. His opposition to God continues on earth, but his doom is sure. He is promised the lowest place in hell under eternal judgment.

Isaiah 14:12-21

1. Who is Lucifer?

2. What five things did Lucifer want?

3. What will happen to Lucifer?

4. What has Lucifer done on earth?

Ezekiel 28:11-19

5. How is the king of Tyre described?

6. What was the position of this king of Tyre?

7. What iniquity was found in him?

8. What did God do to him?

9. What is the future of this king of Tyre?

Lesson 2: The Serpent in Paradise Genesis 3

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-20

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Satan began his pernicious work on earth when he came as the serpent to tempt Eve to doubt and disobey God. She believed his lies and ate the forbidden fruit. She gave to Adam, and by his disobedience sin and death entered God's good creation. God pronounced a curse upon the participants, but also spoke of a future victory over the serpent. Adam and Eve were evicted from the Garden, and cherubim were placed to guard access to the Garden and the Tree of Life.

1. How did the serpent tempt the woman to disobey God?
2. Why did the woman eat the forbidden fruit?
3. What happened when her husband ate of the forbidden fruit?
4. What did Adam and Eve tell God when He came to them in the Garden?
5. What did YHWH God say to the serpent?
6. What did YHWH God say to the woman?
7. What did YHWH God say to Adam?
8. What immediate actions did YHWH God take and why?
9. What did YHWH God do after He drove Adam and Eve from the Garden?

Lesson 3: Consider Job!

Job 1-2

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-21

HYMN: “Day by Day”

SUMMARY: Job's reputation as a righteous man who feared God was challenged by Satan. He was certain that Job's devotion to God was because of the material blessings bestowed by God upon him. YHWH first permitted Satan to take away his family and prosperity, and then his health. In all this, Job did not sin. His faith in YHWH was firm.

1. Who was Job?
2. What was life like for Job?
3. How did Satan respond to YHWH'S challenge to consider His servant Job?
4. What permission did YHWH grant to Satan?
5. What did Satan do to Job?
6. How did Job respond?
7. How did Satan respond to YHWH'S second challenge to consider His servant Job?
8. What permission did YHWH grant to Satan?
9. What happened to Job, and how did he respond?

Lesson 4: Days of Affliction and Homelessness

Lamentations 1

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-22

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Jeremiah mourns the astonishing fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 586 B.C. The city that was once great among the nations is now despised and desolate. Her people have gone into exile. This great calamity is due to the fierce anger of YHWH for the great sin of rebellion against Him, and there is none to comfort.

1. How does Jeremiah describe the city of Jerusalem?
2. What happened to Judah?
3. Why are the roads to Zion in mourning?
4. What did Jeremiah call upon YHWH to see?
5. What action did Jeremiah attribute to YHWH in this calamity?
6. Why did Jeremiah weep?
7. What attribute of YHWH did Jeremiah mention?
8. How did Jeremiah describe his condition?
9. What did Jeremiah ask YHWH to do?

Lesson 5: Has YHWH Determined to Destroy His People? Lamentations 2

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-23

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Jeremiah continues his description of the annihilation of Israel. It seems that YHWH has become the enemy of Israel. The city, the holy places, and services have been destroyed. From the greatest to the least, the people have been destroyed. Jeremiah calls upon the people to cry out to YHWH and he himself pleads with YHWH to see their distress.

1. What had YHWH done to the glory of Israel?
2. How did Jeremiah perceive the relationship of YHWH to Israel?
3. What happened to the tabernacle?
4. What happened to the walls and the gates?
5. What happened to the Law, the prophets, and the elders?
6. What seemed to cause the greatest grief for Jeremiah?
7. What message did Jeremiah have for the people?
8. How did Jeremiah describe YHWH'S role in this calamity?
9. What did Jeremiah say to YHWH?

Lesson 6: YHWH is Good to Those Who Wait for Him

Lamentations 3

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-24

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: This chapter, which is three times as long as each of the four other chapters, is the centerpiece of the message of Jeremiah. He begins by describing his present despair. This is followed by a most amazing display of his faith in the character of YHWH. He ends by acknowledging the righteousness of YHWH and his confidence that YHWH will deal justly with him and his enemies.

1. How did Jeremiah describe his condition?
2. How did Jeremiah describe the way it seemed that YHWH had treated him?
3. What had been the result of the ways of YHWH with Jeremiah?
4. Why did Jeremiah have hope?
5. What did Jeremiah say about the way we should respond to the ways of YHWH?
6. How did Jeremiah describe the ways of YHWH?
7. What did Jeremiah say about the right of man to complain against YHWH?
8. Why did Jeremiah weep?
9. What did Jeremiah call upon YHWH to do?

Lesson 7: YHWH Will Punish Iniquity Lamentations 4

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-25

HYMN: “Day by Day”

SUMMARY: Jeremiah returns to viewing the terrible devastation of Jerusalem. He realizes that it has come because of the iniquity of “the daughter of my people.” The judgment is just. He pointed out that this should serve as a warning for the nations. He ended by anticipating an end to the exile of Israel.

1. What point did Jeremiah make about gold?
2. How did Jeremiah describe the cruelty of the “daughter of my people”?
3. How did Israel compare with Sodom?
4. Why did Jeremiah say that to be slain with the sword was a better end?
5. What surprised the kings of the earth?
6. What were the sins of the prophets and priests?
7. What did Jeremiah say about the presence of YHWH?
8. What did Jeremiah say about the enemies of Israel?
9. What message did Jeremiah have for Edom?

Lesson 8: Remember Us, O YHWH Lamentations 5

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-26

HYMN: “Day by Day”

SUMMARY: Jeremiah ends his lamentations by reviewing the condition of the nation and the reason for it. He ends by recognizing the sovereign rule of YHWH. He calls upon YHWH to restore the nation to Himself.

1. What did Jeremiah ask YHWH?
2. How did Jeremiah describe the condition of the nation?
3. What reason did Jeremiah give for their condition?
4. What did Jeremiah say about those who ruled over the exiles?
5. What did Jeremiah say about the food supply?
6. What did Jeremiah say about the condition of the people in exile?
7. What did Jeremiah say about the mood of the nation?
8. What did Jeremiah say about YHWH?
9. What did Jeremiah ask from YHWH?

Lesson 9: The Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-26

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. After forty days of fasting, the devil came to Him and tempted Him three times. Jesus overcame each temptation by reference to the written Word of God. After the devil left Him, angels came and ministered to Him.

1. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness?
2. How was Jesus prepared for this temptation, and what was His condition when it came?
3. What was the first temptation by the devil?
4. How did Jesus answer this first temptation?
5. What was the second temptation by the devil?
6. How did Jesus answer this second temptation?
7. What was the third temptation by the devil?
8. How did Jesus answer this third temptation?
9. What happened after the devil left Jesus?

Lesson 10: The Enemy and the Kingdom Matthew 13:1-30; 36-43

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-26

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Jesus told two parables which show how Satan opposes the work of God. In the parable of the sower, Satan snatches away the Word of God as it is newly sown in the heart. In the second, Satan sows tares among the wheat and mixes his own evil sons with the sons of the Kingdom of God.

1. List the four types of soil and what happened to the seed which was sown in each.

soil 1

soil 2

soil 3

soil 4

2. Why did Jesus speak in parables?

3. What is the interpretation of the reception of the seed by the four soil types?

soil 1

soil 2

soil 3

soil 4

4. What happened in the field in which the man had sown good seed?

5. What is the explanation of the parable of the tares?

6. What application did Jesus make of the parable of the tares?

Lesson 11: Demons Cast Out Luke 8:26-39

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-26

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: When Jesus came to the country of the Gadarenes, He met a man possessed by many demons. The man was kept in chains and lived in the tombs. The demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God and asked Him not to send them into the deep (abyss). Jesus sent them into a herd of swine which rushed over a cliff and into the lake. Those who saw this miracle, and the man now composed before Jesus, begged Jesus to leave them. Jesus sent the man back to tell of God's mercy to his community, and then he departed.

1. What was the condition of the man who met Jesus?
2. How did the man greet Jesus?
3. What was the demons' name and what did it mean?
4. What request did the demons make of Jesus?
5. Where did Jesus send the demons?
6. What happened to the demons?
7. What happened to the demon possessed man?
8. How did the local people react to this miracle?
9. How did the man who had been possessed of demons react, and what did Jesus tell him?

Lesson 12: The Father of Lies

John 8:31-59

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-26

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Jesus startled the Jews when he spoke of their bondage to sin. They felt secure in their biologic link to Abraham, but Jesus told them His word, which they would not receive, was the vehicle for deliverance. When they claimed Abraham as their father, and then God as their Father, Jesus told them the devil was their father. Therefore, they did not believe in Jesus.

1. What did Jesus tell the Jews about His word?
2. How did Jesus answer their assertion that they had never been in bondage?
3. How did Jesus answer their claim to have Abraham as their father?
4. How did Jesus answer their claim to have God as their Father?
5. Why were they not able to understand His word?
6. Why did the Jews accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan and having a demon?
7. How did the Jews respond when Jesus told what would happen if they kept His word?
8. What did Jesus tell them about Abraham?
9. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?

Lesson 13: Satan in the Early Church

Acts 5:1-11; 16:16-34; 19:11-20

MEMORY: Lamentations 3:19-26

HYMN: "Day by Day"

SUMMARY: Satan filled the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Spirit and they both died because of it. Later, in Philippi, Paul and Silas were arrested because they cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl. Still later, in Ephesus, they cast out evil spirits. Unbelieving Jewish exorcists were not able to duplicate Paul's power over the evil spirits.

Acts 5:1-11

1. What did Ananias and Sapphira do?
2. How did Peter explain what they had done?
3. What happened to Ananias and Sapphira, and how did the church respond?

Acts 16:16-34

4. Why was Paul annoyed in Philippi?
5. Why did Paul and Silas get arrested?
6. How did Paul and Silas get out of jail?

Acts 19:11-20

7. What unusual miracles did Paul perform in Ephesus?
8. What happened when the Jewish exorcists tried to cast out an evil spirit?
9. How did the Ephesians respond to this?

Lamentations

Great is The LORD's Faithfulness			586-585 BC	
①	②	③	④	⑤
<p>1:1-11 "How" seeing Zion's sorrow and sin</p> <p>1:12-22 Zion's plea to the LORD for mercy and retribution</p> <p>lament ① ←</p>	<p>2:1-10 "How" Zion's judgment from the LORD</p> <p>2:11-19 Zion's sorrow</p> <p>2:20-22 Zion's cry for the LORD to see</p> <p>judgment ② ←</p>	<p>Jeremiah ... 3:1-18 <u>sees</u> the affliction</p> <p>3:19-39 <u>hopes</u> in the LORD</p> <p>3:40-66 <u>seeks</u> the LORD</p> <p>③ hope ③</p> <p>biblical chiasm</p>	<p>4:1-11 "How" Zion's judgment from the LORD</p> <p>4:12-22 Zion's enemies observed and warned</p> <p>→ ② judgment</p>	<p>5:1-18 calling for the LORD to see and remember</p> <p>5:19-22 calling for the LORD to restore and renew</p> <p>→ ① lament</p>
A-Z acrostic · 22 verses	A-Z acrostic · 22 verses	AAA-ZZZ acrostic · 66 verses	A-Z acrostic · 22 verses	no acrostic · 22 verses
ĒKAH = "How" = "lament" 1:1 2:1 4:1				