

FIRST PETER

(PART 16)

“FAITH UNDER FIRE”

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The Christian life is very unique in many ways. After all, we enter it in a state of humble dependence and are expected to continue to live that way the rest of our days on earth.

We continually trust the Living God, whom we have never seen. And the blessings He gives are more enjoyable as we learn to trust Him more. It seems as though our existence as a child of God is built around the idea of trust. We are called upon to trust God all the time.

Yet we only trust God if we believe what He says. Another way to say that is this way: The more we believe what God says, the greater our trust will be in who He is and what He can do. This really can be simply stated as “living a life of faith.” The life of faith is the very concept of the Christian life. That is why our individual faith must be put to the test.

FAITH DEFINED

I PETER 1:6-7

THE VALUE OF FAITH

- It is impossible to please God without it! (*Hebrews 11:6*)
- Faith gives reasonable order to everything in life. (*Hebrews 11:3*)

THE DEFINITION OF FAITH

- Faith is...
 - Stable thinking about God's promises. (*Hebrews 11:1*)
 - Being convinced of what I cannot see.
 - Taking God at His word.
- We must understand the difference between the act of faith and the attitude of faith.
 - Act = A one-time belief in the gospel which resulted in salvation.
 - Attitude = Daily belief in the promises and principles of Scripture.
- We must also understand that real faith must be tested and refined.
- The testing involves...
 - A radical, well designed process.
 - An ongoing process until the product is completed and satisfying to the one evaluating.

THE PROCESS OF TESTING

I PETER 1:6

- The testing is absolutely necessary.
 - If you don't accept this fact you will always question God's purpose in your life.
 - Our spiritual growth is directly connected to our being tested. (No testing = No growth!)
- The testing process must be understood in the light of our heavenly reward.
- The testing will be very stressful at times.
- The testing will come in many different forms.
- The testing will always be unplanned by the believer and specifically planned by God.