

Pastor's Corner

Test of Giving

Christianity boils down to two words – faith and obedience. We accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior by faith, then we are obedient to whatever God instructs us to do. As we do what God wills in our lives, our faith is strengthened.

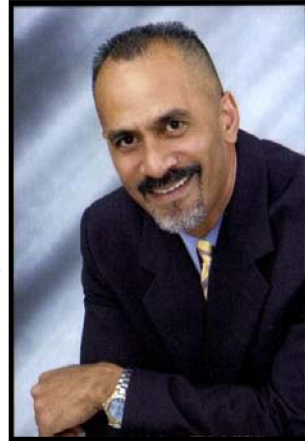
God uses several methods to strengthen our faith. One method God uses is allowing trials to come our way as a test. Only then will we know the strength of our faith. Jesus ended his famous sermon on the mountain with this notion (Matt 5:24-28). He likened the building of our faith on him as building a house on a solid rock. When the rain descends, flood comes, winds blow and beat on the house, the house withstands the storm.

Another way God tests and builds our faith is by giving – the giving of our time, money, and talents. The Bible said, by faith Abel gave a more excellent offering than his brother Cain. By faith Enoch gave up his personal desires to please God. By faith Noah gave up his pride and moved with Godly fear. By faith Abraham gave up his home to obey God. By faith Moses gave up his right to be Pharaoh's grandson, choosing rather to suffer affliction with God's people for God's sake. Obviously faith gives.

This time of the year is another time our faith is put to the test. It's a time of giving. Not so much what is given but the spirit in which we give it. Not so much the value of the gift but the heart of the giver. One unknown author says, "A gift is not a gift unless you give it with your heart." During this holiday season, let us put our faith to

the test by giving to those who are less fortunate. There are plenty of families in our community that would appreciate just the basic necessities like food. I pray that it is with this spirit of giving that we gather our food baskets for distribution this year. Not only is it a blessing for the needy but also a testing of our faith.

"Give, and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."
Luke 6:38



Join Us for Kids Go First Potluck

Sabbath December 5, 2009
Sabbath School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.



**Fun Bible Based Activities
and Crafts**
Kids Go First Through Potluck Line