

Blessings of Adversity
“Face Life’s Pressures with Faith”
Lesson 11 - Part 1 (STUDENT)
March 26, 2023
(Read Pages 109-111)

Matthew 11:2-3 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art Thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

- **Pressure is the emotion God uses to ignite your faith.**
 - Pressure comes often from within and therefore needs to begin in being mastered from within.
 - How we handle pressure will determine whether we stand or break.

We have often heard people say that “If that happened to me, I would do this” or “I would do that”... The truth of the matter is when faced with pressure, we often are not prepared for the unexpected. It is easy to practice alone the principles of God, but when put in real-life situations, it rarely happens the way we practiced.

- **Matthew 26:33-36 (KJV)** ³³ Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. ³⁴ Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. ³⁵ Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples. *It is easy to envision ourselves as soldiers of Christ when not faced with a real-life experience. Peter and the disciples believed that nothing would ever make them run away or deny Christ. But when faced with the gruesome crucifixion of Christ, fear can overtake your faith.*
- **Matthew 26:69-75** ⁶⁹ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before *them* all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.” ⁷¹ And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were there*,

"This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" ⁷³ And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

I. Faith that is not tested is raw faith.

A. The greatest test of faith is when things don't go your way, and you are still able to say, "Thank you, Lord."

➤ **1 Thess. 5:16-18** ¹⁶ Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

B. If you are going to live by faith, then expect your faith to be tested. A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted.

➤ **Heb. 11:32-36** ³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: ³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. ³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: ³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

II. Faith when truly tested, will take you out of your comfortable zone.

Let's look at this example:

➤ **Mark 7:24-30** ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And

she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸ But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.” ²⁹ And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

A. Faith begins at the end of your comfort zone.

B. A comfort zone is a beautiful place – but nothing ever grows there.

III. Faith tested is like baking a cake.

You have the flour, eggs, butter, sugar, baking soda, milk and salt. Alone these ingredients mean nothing, but put together, they experience the irritation and agitation of coming together. As they all come together, they smoothen out and make the batter. Just when they think all is well, they have to go into the oven to experience the heat.

A. Work is an ingredient of faith.

➤ **James 2:17** ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

B. Worship is an ingredient of faith.

➤ **John 4:24** ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

IV. Jesus Always Prepares Us Before the Test.

➤ **John 16:33** “I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.”

A. Relying on Jesus during the shaky moments in your life is key to your faith.

B. “Thank God for do-overs.”

V. Faith is Trusting in God.

A. Putting your weight on God.

B. Faith is like putting all your eggs in God’s basket – and then counting your blessing before they hatch.