

FAITH THAT WON'T FOLD

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BIG IDEA:

Faith is proven by pressure. Real faith leads the mind before emotions, grows through trials, and trusts God's wisdom even when life doesn't make sense.

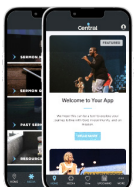
KEY SCRIPTURES:

James 1:2-5, 8
Genesis 3
Genesis 22
Exodus 16
Psalm 119:11
Matthew 26:39
John 15:2
Acts 8:1
Acts 11:27-30

1. When trials hit, what is your natural first instinct: lead with your mind or follow your emotions? Why?
2. What does James mean when he says, "consider it pure joy" (James 1:2)? How could applying your insight shift how you view your current challenges?
3. In James 1:3, how does testing produce perseverance? What's the difference between trials that build you and those that break you?
4. How have you seen "mental leadership" (hegemonía) help you trust God in hard moments?
5. What does it mean that peirasmos (testing) is morally neutral? How does your response to pressure determine the outcome?
6. When you face the temptation to take shortcuts, what typically draws you toward impatience?
7. Why do we often argue with God instead of asking for wisdom? How does James 1:5 challenge that posture?
8. What habits are you building right now to train your mind for future trials?

Dear God, When pressure comes and I only see the brushstrokes, help me trust that You see the whole canvas. When I argue with You because I think I know better, remind me You give wisdom without blame. When my emotions pull me down, give my mind the strength to lead. When I wait for answers I don't yet see, help me trust like Jesus did in Gethsemane.

Grow my faith through what I'm going through. Use my trials to build endurance, refine my character, and shape beauty I cannot yet see. Protect my heart from bitterness. Guard my mind from despair. Surprise me with Your goodness along the way. I believe You are good. I believe You are wise. I believe You are working—even when I cannot see it. AMEN.



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