

How Tough Is Your Faith?

Text: 2 Cor. 5:7 & 2 Cor.1:24

Introduction:

- From the verses that we just read, the Word of God tells us that the Christian is to **walk** and **stand** by **faith**.
- So, then faith in the life of a Christian is very important because without it he can neither walk nor stand in the spiritual sense.
- The degree of faith a Christian has can be measured by the type of walk he has.
- A Christian who has a carnal walk is one who is caught up into emotional experiences or experiences that can be seen.
 - I.e. – Tongues and being slain in the so-called spirit.
- The degree of faith a Christian has can be measured by what it takes to bring him down from the standing position.
- In Ephesians 6, where the Bible talks about the Christian putting on the whole armor of God, three time within the passage the Christian is told to **stand** in the spiritual battle
 - V. 11 – “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil.”
 - V. 13 – “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.”
 - V. 14 – “**Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

→ **Proverbs 24:10 – “If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”**

- Today, we have Christians fainting at the first sign of trouble because their strength is small.
- Because their walk is not a walk of faith.
- Because their stand is not a stand of faith.

→ Today, I ask you this question – “How Tough Is Your Faith”?

→ I want us to look at three Bible examples of “Tough Faith”

→ We will see in each of one these examples no matter what circumstances that the individual found himself that individual kept trusting in the God of the Bible.

→ No matter how much the heat was turned up they kept on trusting in the Lord.

I. Job

→ Here is a man that lost –

- All that he owned
- All his children
- His health
- Notice what his wife instructed him to do and how he responded in **Job 2:9-10**
- Finally his friends turn against him.

→ Notice how this man of tough faith responds to his circumstances.

- **Job 13:15**

II. Three Hebrews – Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego

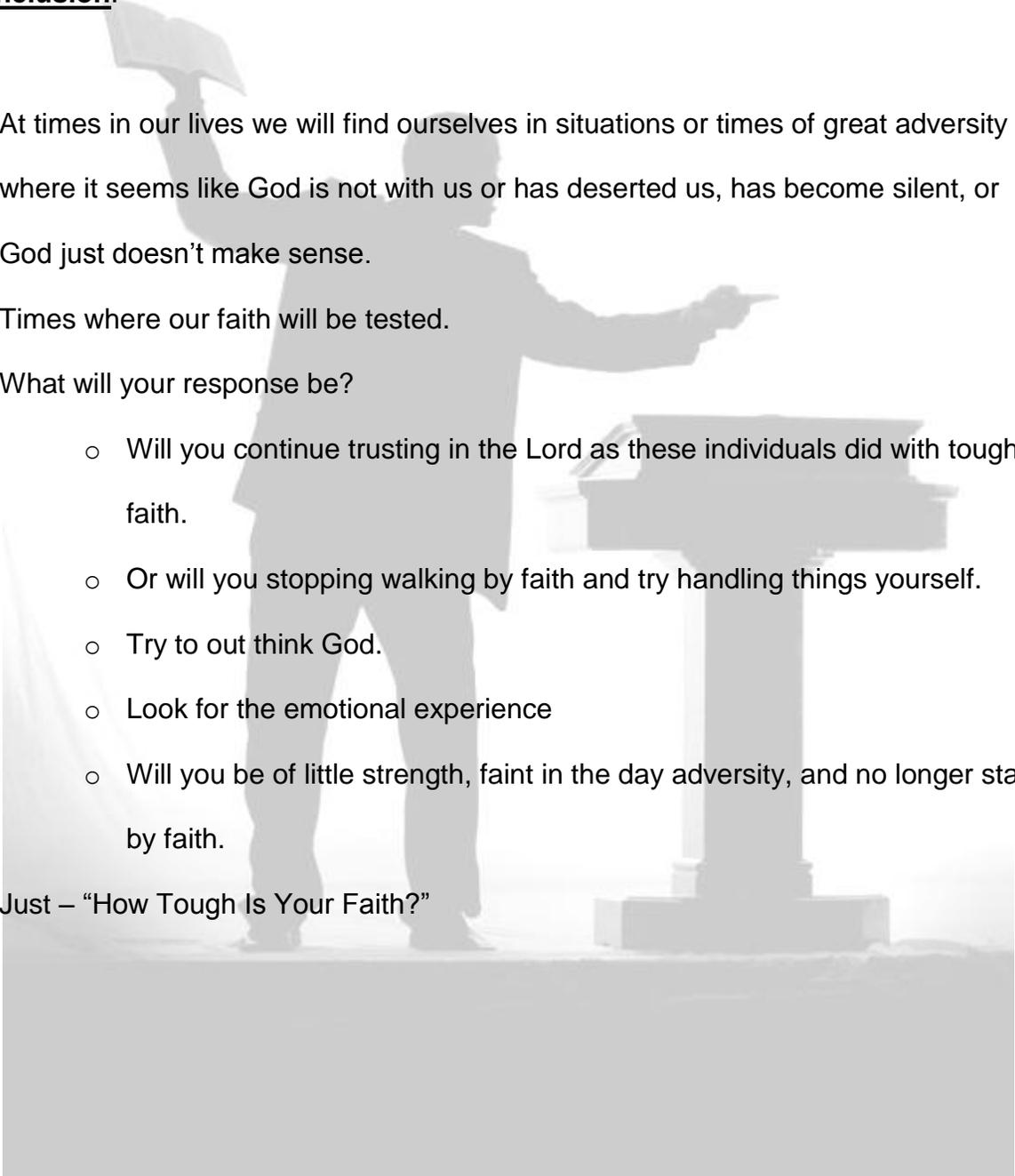
- Daniel Chapter 3, these three young men remained true to their God and refused to bow down to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
- As result the king became furious and in rage and told them that if they did not bow down to his image that they would be cast into a literal fiery furnacne.
- Notice the response of “tough faith” – **See Daniel 3:16-18.**
- In essence what they said to the king was “God can save us but if not, we will serve him anyway.”
- These men had tough faith.

II. The Apostle Paul

- The Apostle Paul had been –
 - Publicly whipped
 - He had gone without adequate food and clothing
 - He was stoned once and left for dead
- Paul give us a summary of his suffering in **2 Cor. 11:23-28**
- He could have complained bitterly that the Lord had called him to a difficult task and then virtually abandoned him.
- He could have cried out to God, “Why me Lord!”
- But instead notice how a man of **tough faith** responded.
- Notice the words that he penned while in a Roman prison to the believers at Philippi.
 - **See Phil. 4:4-7**
 - **See Phil 4:12-13**
- Paul’s secret of contentment was this –

- To trust God regardless of the circumstances and not expect too much perfection in this life.
- ➔ He realized that a better day was coming for those whose source of contentment is in the personhood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion:

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- ➔ At times in our lives we will find ourselves in situations or times of great adversity where it seems like God is not with us or has deserted us, has become silent, or God just doesn't make sense.
- ➔ Times where our faith will be tested.
- ➔ What will your response be?
- Will you continue trusting in the Lord as these individuals did with tough faith.
 - Or will you stopping walking by faith and try handling things yourself.
 - Try to out think God.
 - Look for the emotional experience
 - Will you be of little strength, faint in the day adversity, and no longer stand by faith.
- ➔ Just – “How Tough Is Your Faith?”