



# OUR PROVING GROUNDS

TAKING HOLD OF THE GOOD IN GOD'S PURPOSE  
JAMES 1:3-4

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • October 10 & 11, 2026 • James, week 2 • Msg. 26-33

**James 1:3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)

1. See \_\_\_\_\_ (v.3)

2. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4a)

3. Get \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4b)

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.*

1. Read **Romans 5:3-4**. Think of a trial you are in right now. Name one way you could respond this week that treats it as a test for your growth rather than an obstacle to escape.
2. Read **Zechariah 13:9**. Look back at a previous trial. How did your perseverance and obedience in that test of your faith deepen your closeness to the Lord and strengthen your confidence in Christ?
3. Read **Numbers 14:1-4**. Everyone in a trial is tempted by some exit, whether a shortcut, a complaint, or simply quitting. What is the exit you are most tempted to take, and what would it cost you to take it?
4. Read **Romans 15:4-6**. Trials tend to make people withdraw from the very things that sustain them. When you're hurting, what pulls you away from God's word and God's people, and what has it cost you when you gave in to that pull?
5. Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. Trials often expose the underdeveloped parts of our character. Which part of your Christian life do you suspect God has been working on through your recent hardships?

*The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).*

Msg. 25-11 – **The Pains of Testing**  
Msg. 22-11 – **Tenacious Endurance**  
Msg. 23-33 – **Soul Warfare: Getting Serious About the Battles on the Inside**  
Msg. 18-24 – **Pain & Temptation**  
Msg. 25-01 – **The Basis of Real Comfort**  
Msg. 13-30 – **Apostasy & Stumbling Saints**  
Msg. 13-11 – 13-14 – **Temptation** (a 4-part series in Luke 4)

## **Daily Bible Reading Schedule**

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> .....Is.45-47 & Col.3  
Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> .....Is.48-49 & Col.4  
Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> .....Is.50-52 & 1Th.1  
Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> .....Is.53-55 & 1Th.2  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> .....Is.56-58 & 1Th.3  
Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> .....Is.59-61 & 1Th.4  
Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> .....Is.62-64 & 1Th.5  
Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> .....Is.65-66 & 2Th.1

*Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.*

Borgman, Brian, and Rob Ventura. **Spiritual Warfare**. Reformation Heritage Books, 2014.  
Fabarez, Mike. **Lifelines for Tough Times: God's Presence and Help When You Hurt**. Harvest House Publishers, 2014.  
Gurnall, William, and James S. Bell Jr., ed. **Daily Readings from The Christian in Complete Armor**. Moody, 2015.  
Harris, Greg. **The Cup and the Glory: Lessons on Suffering and the Glory of God**. Kress Christian Publications, 2006.  
Kistler, Don. **Trust and Obey: Obedience and the Christian**. Soli Deo Gloria Ministries, 1997.  
Lundgaard, Kris. **The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin**. P&R Publishing, 2023. Morgan, Christopher W. **Suffering and the Goodness of God**. Crossway, 2008.  
Reeves, Michael. **Spurgeon on the Christian Life: Alive in Christ**. Crossway, 2018.  
Ryle, J. C. **Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots**. Charles Nolan Publishers, 2001.  
Schreiner, Thomas R. **Run to Win the Prize: Perseverance in the New Testament**. Crossway, 2010.  
Tada, Joni Eareckson, and Steve Estes. **When God Weeps**. Zondervan, 1997.  
Thomas, Derek W. H. **Strength for the Weary**. Reformation Trust Publishing, 2018.  
Wiersbe, Warren W. **Living with the Giants: The Lives of Great Men of the Faith**. Baker Books, 1993.