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TESTS AND TRIALS

Most of us can remember when we were in school that we were given tests. Some dreaded those days because they were not prepared. They had slacked off, and alas, they did not do well on the test. Others scored very high with very little effort.

So, why are tests given? Are they given to embarrass those that did not study? Are they given to show how smart someone was?

The true answer to that question is that tests are given to see what we have learned. If we did not learn what was required, then we would have to go back and do it over.

Life is full of tests and trials. James, who was the Lord's half-brother, talks a lot about it in James chapter 1. He said in James 1:2-3 [Amplified Version], ***“Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you fall into various trials. 3 Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace].***

Tests and trials come to help us mature. In school when we have learned a subject well enough, like math, [arithmetic] we then advance beyond the simple math to subtraction, multiplication, then division.

In life, trials come to help us develop patience and also build faith when new circumstances arise. We should not shun trials, but rather look at them like this: What can I learn from this trial? Then take what we have learned and apply it to other areas.

God wants us to mature to the point that we are overcomers rather than being ones overcome by tests and trials.