



**Have You Seen the Ad?**

*(James 1:2-3)*



 Come to life

An individual may not shrink from trials or suffering because:

- **sadistic** – pain = enjoyment or employment
- **optimistic** – pain = opportunity or challenge

FAITH is only a word until it is **tested**

Requirement for it to actually  
be a test = painful ordeal

PERSEVERANCE is only a dream until  
it is **challenged**

Requirement for it to be a  
challenge = other options

MATURITY is only a concept until it is **demanded**

Requirement of a demand = multiple tests,  
often simultaneously

- Am I able to wait? Am I willing to trust?
- Will I pursue life, even without my partner?
- Can I live without whining?

- Can I turn retribution/justice over to God?
- Am I able to rise above anger  
in my actions and responses?
- Do I want to live by my emotions  
or do I want the Holy Spirit to fill me?

- Can I put my hope in heaven and consider this life of secondary importance?
- Can I actually be happy without money?
- Will I be faithful to God when temptation screams at me?

- Can I accept criticism even when it is not constructive or well meaning?
- Do I actually trust God to walk with me through death and embrace it as God's plan?
- Am I willing to move or change my life if God gives me a clear call?

- Is there anything that could dislodge me from my faith in Christ?
- Would I continue to worship God if he removed certain blessings from my life?
- How would I glorify God if my body no longer functioned well?

Every **trial** represents a **challenge** to my attitude, faith, and witness.

Every **challenge** represents an **opportunity** to become, to prove, and to show.

An optimistic or joyful attitude sees beyond the negative... beyond the challenge of proof or survival... beyond “digging down deep.” It sees the **adventure** of walking with God!



Pure joy is actually the **RESPONSE**  
or **RESULT** of pure faith!

# **ADVENTURE**

- a) unusual, exciting, and sometimes hazardous experience or activity
- b) a daring and exciting activity calling for enthusiasm and enterprise

**ADVENTURE** > adventurus (L) = *about  
to happen*  
> advenier (L) = *to arrive*

When you have to go through the “trial” of fasting, do not put on a hang dog face or solicit pity. No! Take a shower, put some mousse on your hair and a smile on your face. Make it an adventure!

See if you can be so cheerful that no one will even guess! God will see your bravery and your optimism, and he'll know it for what it really is... faith. And God will reward you (maybe now, maybe later)!  
*(Mt. 6:16-18) [paraphrase by Rawley]*