HOW GOD TESTS US
JAMES 1:2 / 1-24-21 / AM

I. FIRST, GOD TESTS OUR FAITH THROUGH DIFFICULTIES—ISAIAH 48:10.

A. These difficulties or tests from God come in all sizes, shapes and colors—James 1:2b...trials of many kinds”...

B. Sometimes they are aimed at us personally, but other times toward someone we love.

C. This doesn’t mean that God causes bad things to happen to us—James 1:13

D. How should we respond to the difficult things that test us? James 1:2a gives us our answer—“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials...”

II. SECOND, GOD TESTS OUR FAITH THROUGH DEMANDS.

A. Many of these demands or commands seem impossible to keep.

1. Let me mention one reason why God’s demands are hard for us to keep.

   2. I’ve said this before and I can’t say it enough, “Either Jesus is Lord of all of our lives or He is Lord of none of our lives.

B. Let’s look at a couple of examples in the Bible of people who obeyed God even when he asked them to do the impossible.

1. God tested Abraham when he commanded him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice—Gen. 22:1a—“Some time later God tested Abraham...”


3. God tests us too according to the Apostle Peter—1 Peter 4:12.

C. Why does God test us with His demands?

   1. One reason that we saw last week is to demonstrate the validity of our faith—I Peter 1:7a—“These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith...”

   2. Another reason to to help grow our faith—1 Peter 5:10.

D. How should we respond to God’s demands or commands?

   1. Abraham responded by obeying when God demanded he leave his home—Heb. 11:8.

   2. Even if we don’t understand God’s demands we should obey them anyway—2 Cor. 5:7—"For we live by faith, not by sight."