

Sisters for Yah

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Passing tests with flying colors

We all know about Job. He faced an unusually rigorous series of trials, yet never lost his faith in Yahweh. What about us? When we are going through suffering, can we join Job in saying, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him"? I know it's not easy. Yet, keep in mind that our tests are significant in that Yahweh's reputation is affected by their outcome. Unbelievers are watching us. When we walk away from Yahweh during suffering, they are seeing us, and we become a very bad example.

Satan had accused Yahweh of putting a hedge around Job. The hedge protected Job's health, family, riches, and so forth. Satan was so convinced that Job was only in it for the protection. But Job withstood the tests magnificently. Now this does not mean that Job did not grieve the loss of things and people he loved. It's absolutely okay to cry and grieve when we are hurting. That's not the point here. The point is that Job did not give up on Yahweh.

Even Abraham had a test so severe that I wonder if any modern believer would be able to pass it. Scripture reminds us that in what has become to be known as the "Great Tribulation" things will be so severe that people will be wanting to die. Yahweh, of course, promises to protect His people, but He will not shield us from every little inconvenience. We were never promised that life on this earth would be a bed of roses. We were promised that we would be given strength to endure to the end. Overcoming to end is one of our main goals, not having a perfect life.

Look at the Apostle Paul's life. No one can say he didn't suffer. He went through trials that none of us have even imagined. Getting shipwrecked and left for dead? Paul's trials were the stuff of nightmares. So let us continue to trust Yahweh and follow Him with all our might, overcoming to the end.

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Spiritual Breakthroughs

Have you ever felt “stuck” spiritually speaking? I recently overheard a woman saying she felt like her prayers were going no higher than the ceiling, nothing was changing in her life, and her trials were getting worse. We all have experienced life-altering trials at some point in our lives. Lets face it, it hurts when we and those we love suffer various trying circumstances. And yes, it happens to all of us! One thing is for sure, Yahweh does use trials to accomplish His perfect will.

1. Realize that trials can keep you close to Yahweh. I might be the only one who has noticed this, but when everything is going great in my life, I tend to pray less. Trials bring me to my knees crying out before Yahweh. Trials drive me into His loving arms, and therefore I am closer to Him.
2. Trials have made me more compassionate. It’s hard to understand other people’s trials unless you have been through some yourself. I, myself, am a much more patient and understanding individual, thanks in part to past trials I have survived.
3. Trials might just be a test you need to pass. We have to be tested. There’s no other way! Yahweh is looking for a strong people who do not turn from Him despite the difficulties in their lives. Read the Bible! Did the disciples escape trials? No! And neither will we.
4. Express gratitude even when you don’t feel like it. When things are going wrong in your life, it might feel like you have nothing to be grateful about. Grab a pen and paper and start writing! Even in my worst trials, I still could find things to be thankful for. I have a roof over my head and food in my tummy. We are to be content!
5. Confess any known sins. If you can’t think of any, ask Yahweh to reveal the ones you are not aware of. I knew someone that claimed she wasn't sinning. But after much prayer and meditation, Yahweh revealed to her some things that she was doing automatically on “auto-pilot.” She had been snapping at her children and being very critical, even though they were doing their best. She also realized that she had been nagging her husband to fix things around the house. After repenting, this woman and her family became much closer and unified! And once she stopped pressuring her husband, he actually began fixing things! Truly the power of prayer is incredible.
6. Glorify Yahweh through your trials. Tell Him that you will obey Him no matter what life throws at you, because you know He is ultimately in charge of your life.
7. Consider asking Him to reveal what you are to learn from your trial. Many people have become stronger people once they submitted completely.



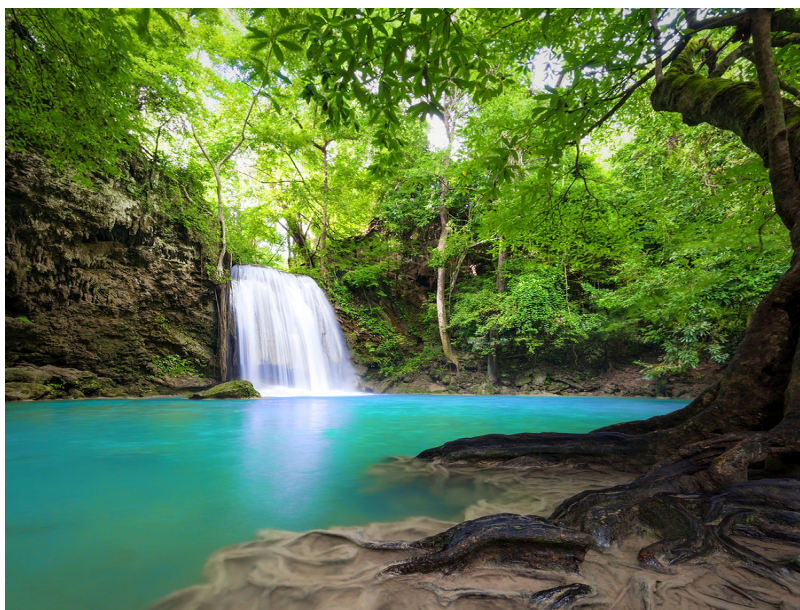
You Never Can Tell

(Anonymous)

You never can tell when you send a word
 Like an arrow shot from a bow
 By an archer blind, be it cruel or kind,
 Just where it may change to go.
 It may pierce the breast of your dearest friend,
 Tipped with the poison or balm,
 To the stranger's heart in life's great mart
 It may carry its pain or its calm.

You can never tell when you do an act
 Just what the result will be,
 But with every deed, you are sowing a seed,
 Though the harvest you may not see.
 Each kindly act is an acorn dropped
 In Yah's productive soil;
 You may not know, but the tree shall grow
 With shelter for those who toil.

You can never tell what your thoughts will do
 In bringing you hate or love,
 For thoughts are things, and their airy wings
 Are swifter carriers than doves.
 They follow the law of the universe
 Each thing must create its kind,
 And they speed over the track to bring you back
 Whatever went out from your mind



Those of us who follow
 Yahweh will be *“Like a tree
 planted by the water that
 sends out its roots by the
 stream. We do not fear
 when heat comes; our
 leaves are always green.
 We have no worries in a
 year of drought and never
 fail to bear fruit”*

(loosely based on
 Jeremiah 17:18).

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Make Your own whipped cream!

Ladies, you have got to try this! This is one of the easiest ways I've ever found to make whipped cream. Here's what you need:

- 1 mason jar with lid
- 1 cup heavy cream (also known as heavy whipping cream)
- 2 T. powdered sugar
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract

Put everything in the jar and secure the lid. Now shake, shake, shake! You're done once it looks thick and fluffy. Makes about 1 1/2 cups of whipped cream. Top your desserts with it.

Gardening Myths

Myth #1:

Adding sugar to the soil can make your tomatoes sweeter.

The truth:

Sugar can actually stunt the growth of plants. Save your sugar for your hummingbird feeders.

Myth #2:

Yellow leaves on your plants indicate that you better water it, and fast!

The truth: unless the soil is dry, there's no need to water. Sometimes over-watering is the real problem that's causing yellow leaves!

Myth #3:

Bury banana peels to nourish your roses with potassium.

The truth:

Bad idea! Yes, bananas contain potassium, but they also deplete nitrogen from the soil. Better to just compost your peels.

Myth #4:

Plant a rusty nail to make your hydrangeas blue.

The truth: there is no scientific evidence to back up this claim. Acidic soil is what causes outrageously blue hydrangeas! Just ask someone who lives in Cape Cod.

