

God Demands a Test—How To Be Prepared

Lessons From the Lord's Brother Season 1

Core Message: This episode begins a deep dive into the book of James, highlighting its distinctly Jewish focus on action and obedience. Rabbi Schneider emphasizes the spiritual call to live as bondservants of Jesus, denying self-will in favor of God's will. He teaches that enduring trials with joy leads to spiritual maturity, endurance, and completeness in the Lord. Using vivid examples and scriptural parallels, viewers are challenged to examine their daily choices and spiritual discipline as reflections of their faith.

Main Bible Verses (NASB):

- **Core Memory Verse: (James 1:1)** "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings."
 - **Luke 9:23** "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"
 - **James 1:2–4** "Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
 - **Deuteronomy 8:2–3** "And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you go hungry, and fed you with the manna... so that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that comes out of the mouth of the Lord."
 - **Romans 8:28–29** "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son..."
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Key Points (Fill-in-the-Blank):

- "We give up our own _____ to serve Him."
 - "Unless you pick up your cross _____, every day..."
 - "There's a demonic power that's trying to lure us out of abiding in the _____ of the Lord."
 - "You're going to gain friends on Facebook, but you're going to lose your own _____."
 - "Don't waste your _____. Don't waste your wilderness."
 - "Trials are necessary if we're to _____ in the Lord."
 - "God makes us strong by bringing us through _____."
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Notes:

(Use lines below for personal notes)

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life is God calling you to live more like a bondservant? What is surrender to Him going to look like?

2. How do you usually respond to trials? How might James 1:2–4 reshape your perspective and your response?

3. What spiritual disciplines or daily habits can help you filter your choices through God's will? Be specific in naming exact action steps needed.

4. Are there digital or social media habits that are distracting you from God's presence? Name them and your strategies to deal with them.

5. Begin tracking your results as you make changes in these areas. Do you expect this to be a challenging journey? How so?

Application Challenge of the Week:

Each day this week, take one area of your life (speech, dress, time use, phone habits, etc.) and intentionally ask: “Jesus, is this what You want me to do?” Then make one adjustment to reflect His will.

(Or come up with your own as the Lord leads):

Prayer Prompts:

- "Ask God to help you live as His bondservant in every area of life."
- "Thank Him for using trials to strengthen your faith and build endurance."
- "Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your choices in a digitally distracted world."

Resources	Where to find it
Books by Rabbi K. A. Schneider <i><u>Decoding the Torah</u></i>	https://discoveringthejewishjesus.com/decoding-the-torah/

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord cause His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His face to you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:22-27 (