

**P**ersevere

for

**E**xperience

***"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."  
James 1:2-3***

# What is Personal Experience?

One of the best ways to increase your faith is to witness God's involvement in your life. Whether you are aware of it or not, God is involved in your life. He does allow trials in your life, but for a purpose, and he doesn't leave you alone during those trials. He puts many influences in your path, helps ease your burdens and provides strength. If you begin to look for His activities in your life, you will see them. As your faith increases, your reliance on Him will increase and He will do more and more amazing things in your life. These personal experiences are a necessary part of your "Journey of Faith" and become a solid part of your faith.

**1. What was one of the most difficult experiences in your life?**

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**2. Did that difficult experience help make you a better person? In what way?**

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**3. Do you see ways that God works in your life? Describe them.**

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God works in a variety of ways. We're not just talking about extraordinary miracles. We're also talking about God's daily work to mold your character, to influence you and to help you.

**4. Do you think that God wants to be involved in your life?**

Read I Peter 5:7 and John 14:27 and then write down some of the things God wants to do for you.

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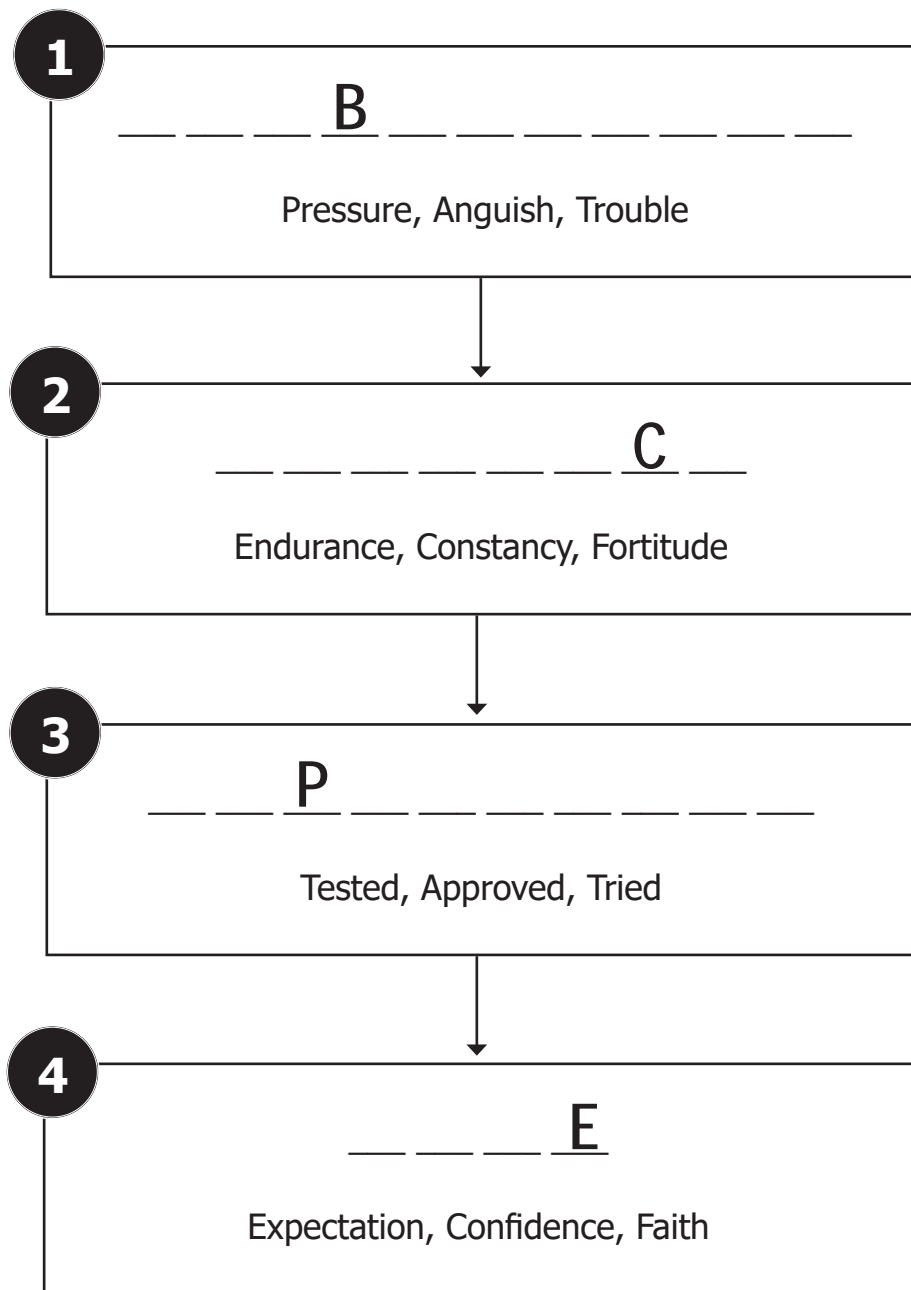
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# How Do I Gain Experience?

Read the text and then fill in the blanks.

Romans 5:3-5



# What's So Great About Trials?

Read the text and then fill in the blanks.

## 1. Why should I be happy about experiencing affliction and temptation?

- A) James 1:2-4 - It gives you \_\_\_\_\_ .
- B) James 1:12 - You receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- C) Psalm 119:67-71 - You learn God's commandments and \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- D) Hebrews 12:6-7 - It shows you that God \_\_\_\_\_ you. He is allowing temptations in your life in order to make you a better person.

## 2. How long should my patience last?

- A) Matthew 10:22 - To the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- B) James 5:7-8 - Until the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

## 3. Why is my experience (passing the trial/test) so important?

- A) II Timothy 2:12-15 - You will be \_\_\_\_\_ unto God. If you suffer, endure, and gain the experience because of it, you are accepted by God.
- B) Hebrews 3:14 - You will be \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, which means to be a partner, sharer or associate.
- C) I Peter 1:6-7 - You receive \_\_\_\_\_. Your trials last a short time while here on earth, but your honour and glory will last forever.

# What Limits God's Involvement in My Life?

Read the text and then fill in the blanks.

Problem	Remedy
1. I don't ask Mark 1:40-41	<u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>Y</b> <u>      </u> - Make your requests known to God. Even though God is constantly at work in your life for your own good, there are some cases, where if you don't ask, God doesn't do it.
2. I'm too busy Psalm 46:10	<b>B</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - Too often, you may be too busy to notice God's leading in your life.
3. I have fear Matthew 14:29-30	<b>T</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>D</b> <u>      </u> - Allowing fear to distract you, causes you to lose sight of God and the source of your strength.
4. I have pride Psalm 10:4	<u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>C</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>S</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>O</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - Sometimes you might think you are responsible for the good things that happen. You trust in your own ability. Let go of these thoughts of self, which leave no room for God in your thoughts, and readjust your focus.
5. I think God is too busy Luke 12:6-7	<b>I</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>V</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>G</b> <u>      </u> - You may think he is too important and has too big of plans to worry about your small life or to perform day-to-day miracles in your life. However, there is plenty of evidence in the Bible proving that God cares about every detail in our lives.
6. I'm not honest in heart Ephesians 4:18	<b>W</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>M</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>T</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - If you feel guilty, yet convince yourself that you are doing right, you are not being honest in heart and gradually your heart becomes calloused (blinded). This process forces God to withdraw more and more from your life as you choose to live without Him. Study and pray that you may know the right decision and then follow through with it. This is the path to a guilt-free and peace-filled life.
7. I lack patience Romans 8:28	<b>W</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - God knows best and all things will work out for the best.
8. I don't pay attention John 13:18-19	<u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>O</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>V</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - Notice the details, consider how things come together and why. God shows us things and plants clues ahead of time so that our faith may increase.
9. I lack love John 14:21	<u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>E</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - God promises to manifest (inform, declare, appear) Himself to you if you love Him. You love God by keeping His commandments.
10. I don't take risks Matthew 25:24-25	<u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>B</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> <b>L</b> <u>      </u> <u>      </u> - God gives us abilities and when we use them, He gives us even more good things. Take action and use your talents.

## Activity: "Experience It"

### **Instructions:**

Experiences give us opportunity to shape the type of character we want to develop. They are tools we can use to develop into the type of person we want to be. God allows us to experience all kinds of different events in order to give us exactly the opportunities we need to become trustworthy, kind, generous, loving and more like Jesus.

Take a few minutes to think about an experience you've had that has had a significant effect on you. What was your response to the experience and how has it helped you shape your life?

Groups: Have each participant write down a brief reference to their experience on a piece of paper (e.g. "traveled to Cuba", "my father wrote me a special letter", "tamed a wild cat", etc.). Place all pieces of paper in a bucket. Randomly draw one out and read it out loud. Have participants guess to see if they know who experienced it. Then have the person who really experienced it reveal themselves and share more of the story if they like.

# Answers to Worksheets

## Lesson 10 - Persevere for Experience

### How Do I Gain Spiritual Experience?

1. Tribulation
2. Patience
3. Experience
4. Hope

### What's So Great About Trials?

- 1-A. Patience
- 1-B. Crown, Life
- 1-C. Keep
- 1-D. Loves
- 2-A. End
- 2-B. Coming
- 3-A. Approved
- 3-B. Partakers
- 3-C. Honour

### What Limits God's Involvement in My Life?

1. Pray, 2. Be still, 3. Trust God, 4. Focus on God, 5. Involve Him in everything, 6. Welcome truth, 7. Wait, 8. Be observant, 9. Love God, 10. Be bold

# Notes