

A Great Day in the Kingdom – June 25, 2021

Have you ever heard someone (perhaps yourself) speak of their faith being tested? Each day we live on this earth in some way, shape or form, our faith can be tested. Webster defines “test” as a “critical examination, observation, or evaluation.” Being tested is not necessarily a bad thing, for the result can often lead us into a healthy perspective of ourselves.

From the Exodus narrative, through Diaspora, to the crucifixion of Christ and even post resurrection, humanity's faith has been tested in countless situations. We should be able to experience an attitude or feeling of comfort, as long as the relative context of our lives is considered.

Years ago in 1982, Merle Haggard released a song where the country, our language, our home lives and even our roles as men and women were questioned. The song begins with negative lines like, “I wish Coke was still cola and joint was a bad place to be...and it was back before Nixon who lied to us all on T.V.” Merle, initially, brought the listener into the negative narrative and abruptly, in the last verse of the song admonishes us all.

My belief is that he had recently read the book of James. Well, he could have, possibly. **James 1:3 says, “Be sure that the testing of your faith produces endurance, leading to spiritual maturity and inner piece.”** What does the last verse of the song say? “Stop rolling down-hill like a snowball headed for Hell. The good times ain't over for good!” The good times, the times better than simply good are ahead for us all, in Jesus Christ, our Savior! Testing or what I like to refer to as experiencing life are what makes us who we are (God's People) and whose we are.

God brings us through even the toughest of times and we come out, on the other side. What is the other side? The other side is the Kingdom of Heaven. If you get there before I do, please, say Hi to Merle for me.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me to see that good is ahead. Help me to see that my faith, when tested is strengthened on the far side of my trials. Lord help me to remember that the good times are never over for good in Christ, Jesus my Savior! AMEN!