

**The hebrew word for adversity is Ra' pronounced (Rah) and this word means evil, affliction, bad, calamity, displeasure, and distress. This word is found 667 times in the O.C.*

*In like manner the Hebrew word for adversary means satan, and withstand. This word is found 27 times in the O.C.

*The Greek word for adversity is peirasmos pronounced (pi-ras-mos) and it means trial, testing, temptation, calamity, affliction. This word is found 21 times in the N.C.

*The Greek word for adversary is antidikos pronounced (an-tid'-ee-kos) and this word means an opponent, adversary. This word is found 5 times in the N.C.

*The second Greek word for adversary is satanas pronounced (sat-an-as) and it means an adversary, and satan. This word is found 36 times in the N.C.

I. There is an enemy of our soul and in I Peter 5:8 it says: **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

II. Proverbs 24:10 says: **If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.**

III. II Cor. 1:4 says: That God comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in ant trouble, with the same comfort we received from God.

IV. We are called to overcome evil with good! Romans 12:21

V. We are blessed when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake and our reward is great in heaven! Matthew 5:10-11

VI. Overcoming evil with good and truly loving our enemies is nothing less then a supernatural task that can only be accomplished by the Holy Spirit!

VII. Understanding the armor of God is absolutely essential to overcoming adversity.

VIII. Ephesians 6:13-17, outlines the armor and though we don't have time to go into the details of each piece I want to briefly speak of it.

X. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4 ESV)

- **(The testing of your faith brings patience!)**
- The Hebrew word for testing is **tsaraph** which means:
 - 1) to smelt, refine, test
 - 1a1) to smelt, refine
 - 1a2) to test
 - 1a3) to test (and prove true)
 - 1a4) smelter, refiner, goldsmith (participle)
 - 1b) (Niphal) to be refined
- Another Hebrew word for testing is **nasah** which means:
 - 1) to test, try, prove, tempt, assay, put to the proof or test
 - 1a) (Piel)
 - 1a1) to test, try
 - 1a2) to attempt, assay, try
 - 1a3) to test, try, prove, tempt

2. In Genesis 22:1; After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” (His only son)

3. Terry Bennett says that the playground of satan is attached to the school of Christ!

4. Hezekiah was tested and failed! In fact Hezekiah was unaware of the testing completely! II Kings 20:12-19, II Chronicles 32:31

5. The wilderness is always a time of testing!

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, Hebrews 3:7,8 ESV

6. Even Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered!

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18 ESV)

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 ESV

7. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1 ESV)

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. Luke 4:1,13,14 ESV

8. It is the Holy Spirit that leads us into testing!

- Testing is designed to give us more power of the Holy Spirit.
- Testing brings obedience!
- The greater the test the greater the possibility for anointing!
- It takes 50 pounds of olives to produce 1 gallon of extra virgin olive oil!

9. The greater the call of God on your life the greater the testing that must take place!

- **When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. (Psalm 105:16-19 ESV)**
- Testing brings humility and forgiveness!

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Genesis 45:5, 7, 8 ESV

10. Testing is for the praise, glory and honor of The Lord!

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:7 ESV

- So to be tested is to be like Jesus!

11. There will always be a test before promotion!

And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 1 Timothy 3:10 ESV

12. Signs that you are being tested!

- **When you find yourself going through circumstances that you have never gone through before!**
- **When you have a dream that you are back in school and you are taking a test!**
- **When you are being tempted in ways that you have never been tempted before!**
- **When you are being persecuted in ways that you have not been before!**

- **When you have been betrayed by someone you trusted!**
- **You have just received a powerful prophetic word!**
- **You have just had a vision of your future!**
- **Everything is going wrong and you don't know why!**
- **When you are right on the edge of breakthrough and then it falls apart again!**

13. Rebellion can bring testing!

Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and test them, for what else can I do, because of my people?"
 Jeremiah 9:6-7 ESV

- **It is important to examine our lives so that the testing we are going through is for promotion and not discipline!**
- **Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. (Psalm 26:2, 3 ESV)**
- **The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. (Psalm 11:4, 5 ESV)**

14. We need to come into a place of such sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that He can lead us with His eyes alone!

15. Our testing should bring obedience, authority, power, maturity and patience which is one of the nine fruits of the Spirit!

16. We should expect testing if we desire to live godly and see the kingdom of God advance on the earth!

17. Great champions go through great testing!

18. We need to be willing to kill the bear and the lion in private before we ever kill Goliath in the public arena!

19. Most testing will take place in your private life with no one around except you and Holy Spirit!

20. As sons and daughters of God, we don't fail test, we just get to keep retaking them until we pass!

21. There are 10 test or giants of which seven of them are mightier than you that must be overcome.

“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,”. Deuteronomy 7:1 NKJV

- **On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” (Genesis 15:18-21 NKJV)**
- **“When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, (Deuteronomy 7:1)**

- **Kenites** - means fabricator- lies, false accusations
- **Kenezites** - means possessive or covetousness- trying to look more spiritual than you are or trying to be someone else or walk in their anointing
- **Kadmonites** - means ancient ways or religious spirit

1. These seven are mightier and greater than us!

- **Hittites** - means sons of terror, Subliminal torments, phobias, terror, depression, deceit
- **Girgashites** - means stranger, feeling out of place, like you don't fit in
- **Amorites** - means sayer or to speak; to speak, to speak against, or to boast self/pride.
- **Canaanites** - means zealous or pre-mature opportunity
- **Perizzites** - means squatter, Limited vision, laziness, low self-esteem
- **Rephaim or Hivites** - means giant, Villagers, Vision limited to enjoying an earthly inheritance, hedonism
- **Jebusites** - means down trodden or depression, or victim mentality