

St. Matthew AME Church  
Orange, New Jersey  
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor

Women's Bible Study Fellowship  
Saturday, October 10, 2020

Fall Series: "Tests, Trials, and Temptations" 1Peter 4:12  
Session II "Seek Him First" Psalm 105:4

## I. Review of Session I-"Do I Really Have To?"

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come to test you, as though something strange were happening to you." [1 Peter 4:12 NIV]

"Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job."  
[1 Peter 4:12 Message]

Peter was writing to Jewish Christians driven out of Jerusalem and scattered throughout Asia Minor and all believers everywhere. The purpose of 1 Peter was to offer encouragement to suffering Christians. Peter knew persecution firsthand. Beaten and jailed, Peter had been threatened often. Peter was probably in Rome when the great persecution under Emperor Nero began. Eventually Peter was executed during this persecution.

- It is Peter's view that trials are inevitable. Trials "try" us, and tests "test" us. The two words are sometimes used interchangeably. A test is considered a challenge, or an examination and a trial is an opportunity to test something.

## II. Continue Review-"Why a Trial"?

- Everybody will experience trials/tests
- Show us who we really are Psalm 26:2
- Test our quality James 1:2-4
- Affirm our strengths and weaknesses
- It is for your good James 1:2-4, Roman's 5:3-5
- Show us God's power II Samuel 22:33, Ephesians 3:20
- Trials are part of God's work, Romans 8:28

## III. Session II "First, Turn to God" Psalm 105:4, Jeremiah 29:13

Sometimes we:

- deny that you are going through.....
- magnify the problem("blow it up")
- feel angry, frustrated, embarrassed, guilty, hopeless, self-pity
- allow the situation to consume you, until you become paralyzed ( nothing gets accomplished)

"We Must Seek God First", Why?

- When we seek God first, we find rest and peace for our weary souls. Proverbs 8:17
- When we seek God first, we find that God's strength is limitless. During our lowest moments, God's strength shines the greatest. Isaiah 40:31
- When we seek God first, He revives our souls. We can even find some joy in the midst of our trials. Isaiah 35:10
- When we seek God first, He will lead us to deliverance Psalm 107:13-14
- When we seek God first, we will receive His wisdom and understanding. Proverbs 3:6
- When we seek God first, we will receive a restored hope. Romans 15:13
- When we seek God first, we will be satisfied. Isaiah 58:11, Jeremiah 31:25

"SEEK HIM FIRST"