

Genuine Faith

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the **genuine faith** this is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

There are two different Greek words for test and tempt.

“Peirazo” – to try whether a thing can be done; a test to cause to fail.

This word is always used when the enemy tests, tempts, or tries. He tests us to see what he can get away with. If we stand in our authority by faith, he can't get his way.

“Dokimazo” – to test the quality of something and to use it in a greater way.

This word is used when God tests. God tests to show what is **genuine** and to promote to greater usefulness.

Does God test us?

The answer to this question is what type of testing are you referring to?

God does not test [peirazo] us. (to try whether a thing can be done; a test to cause to fail)

However, He does test [dokimazo] us. (to test the quality of something and to use it in a greater way)

James 1:13 – “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted [peirazo] by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt [peirazo] anyone.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4 – “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests [dokimazo] our hearts.”

God will never test us to cause us to fail or sin. The devil does this. However, God uses the devil's test against him by proving the **genuineness** of what He has given us and to promote us after the test.

James 1:2-3 – “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials [peirasmos], knowing that the testing [dokimion] of your faith produces patience.”

The devil will send a trial to us to see what he can get away with and to cause us to fail. God turns this around and uses this test to prove the faith He gave us is **genuine** and also to use us in a greater way afterwards.

The Greek word “dokimion” means a small test. When the ending of “ion” is put at the end of a word it implies something small. The trial from the devil might seem huge to us, but God sees it as a small test to prove what He has given is **genuine** and effective, and also to promote us!

I Peter 1:6-7 – “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials [peirasmos], that the **genuineness** of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested [dokimazo] by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”

Again, the enemy sends trials to us to break us, but God turns them around to prove the **genuineness** and effectiveness of the faith He gave to us and to promote us.

Why Is Our Faith Tested?

Trials and tests come to us not because we are in a classroom, but the truth is, they come because we are on a battlefield. We are ambassadors for Christ sent out into enemy territory to take spiritual ground and take back prisoners of war from the enemy. Because of this, we are a target. Satan hates God, so he hates us!

Our classroom is the church services we attend and our time spent in the Word listening to the Holy Spirit. That is where we are trained to go out into the battlefield which is our own particular mission field.

God has equipped us with everything we need to be victorious out on the field God has called us to be on. He has given us His name, His promises, and His armor, which includes faith.

Each trial that you go through is about the truth of God’s Word being challenged. Your faith in the truth of God’s Word is challenged by the enemy. He makes natural circumstances appear to be opposite of what God’s Word says.

Key Thoughts

- A. The devil sends trials to see what he can get away with and to break us. **God turns those around to prove the genuineness and effectiveness of the faith He gave us and to promote us.**
- B. The test is not really about you. **It is really about the truth of God’s Word and your faith in it.**
- C. Tests do not come to us to teach us. **They come because we are on enemy territory doing the Lord’s work.**