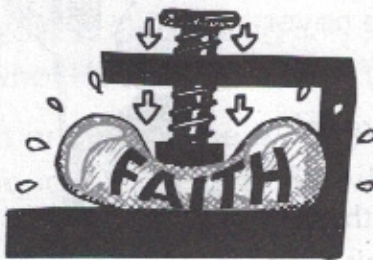


## Why does God test our faith?

The Bible tells us that God can see what is in our hearts and that He can also read our thoughts (see Psalm 139:2). So why does God need to test our faith? Surely He knows whether we believe or not, because nothing is hidden from Him.

There are times when God tests us for a reason we will never know or understand, because His thoughts and ways are far above ours (see Isaiah 55:8-9). That's when we need to hold on to what we know about God and simply trust Him.



However, from people in the Bible whose faith was tested, we can learn some of the reasons that we sometimes feel the pressure of problems, sadness and hardship.

One of those people was Peter, who said that trials (or tests) come so that our faith may be made pure, like gold melted in a hot furnace (see 1 Peter 1:6-7). When we keep trusting God during the tough times, as Abraham did, our faith actually becomes purer and stronger.

Paul, who had a very hard time because of His faith in the Lord, said that we should be glad when problems come (see Romans 5:3-4). Hardships can bring out something in us that makes us want to keep going, and it is that endurance that builds our character. It gives us confidence to believe that God will stay close to us in our time of trouble, that the test will come to an end, and that there is an eternal reward waiting for us (see James 1:12).