Their (trials and suffering) purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold…is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed. **1 Peter 1:7** GNT

CHOOSING TO IMITATE THOSE WITH A FAITHFUL FAITH REQUIRES THAT…

1. **I CHOOSE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD IN TIMES OF _____ _____.**

Should I go on? There isn't enough time for me to speak of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. [33] Through faith they fought whole countries and won. They did what was right and received what God had promised. They shut the mouths of lions, [34] put out fierce fires, escaped being killed by the sword. They were weak, but became strong; they were mighty in battle and defeated the armies of foreigners. [35] Through faith women received their dead relatives raised back to life. **Hebrews 11:32-35** GNT

When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me. **Hosea 13:6** NV

Every God-born person conquers the world's ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. The person who wins out over the world's ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God. **1 John 5:4** Message

2. **I CHOOSE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD IN TIMES OF _____ _____.**

Others, refusing to accept freedom, died under torture in order to be raised to a better life. [36] Some were mocked and whipped, and others were put in chains and taken off to prison. [37] They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were killed by the sword. They went around clothed in skins of sheep or goats—poor, persecuted, and mistreated. [38] The world was not good enough for them! They wandered like refugees in the deserts and hills, living in caves and holes in the ground. **Hebrews 11:35-38** GNT

We can't allow ourselves to get tired of living the right way. Certainly, each of us will receive ⌞ everlasting life ⌟ at the proper time, if we don't give up. **Galatians 6:9** GW

I know your troubles. I know that you are poor, but really you are rich! I know the bad things that some people say about you... [10] Do not be afraid of what will happen to you. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you. You will suffer…But be faithful, even if you have to die. If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life. **Revelation 2:9-10** ICB

NOTE: This choice requires a _____ faith, not just a _____ faith.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." **Matthew 7:21** NIV

Now what use is it, my brothers, for a man to say he "has faith" if his actions do not correspond with it? Could that sort of faith save anyone's soul? … [19] To the man who thinks that faith by itself is enough I feel inclined to say, "So you believe that there is one God? That's fine. So do all the devils in hell and shudder in terror!" **James 2:14, 19** Phillips Translation

…we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles in behalf of His name… **Romans 1:5** NASV

*through the Scriptures… in accordance with the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith***. Romans 16:26** NASV

Does my faith compel me to refuse to compromise regardless of the cost? Y N

Others, refusing to accept freedom, died under torture in order to be raised to a better life. **Hebrews 11:35**

Does my faith compel me to seek ____ _____ over ____ _____? Y N

Some were mocked and whipped, and others were put in chains and taken off to prison [37] They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were killed by the sword. They went around clothed in skins of sheep or goats—poor, persecuted, and mistreated. [38] The world was not good enough for them! They wandered like refugees in the deserts and hills, living in caves and holes in the ground. **Hebrews 11:36-38**

Does my faith compel me to be _____ regardless of the _____? Y N

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, [40] since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. **Hebrews 11:39-40**

"Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance—isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our super-spiritual projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.' **Matthew 7:21-23** The Message Paraphrase

But the person who endures to the end will be saved. **Matthew 24:13** GW

Additional Notes:

Reflecting on today's message…

What touched my heart?

What is God asking me to do?

What should I change this week?

Who else needs to hear this message?