

**LIFE DOES TEST HOPE**  
March 12, 2023 • Philippians 4:13-20  
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**INTRODUCTION:**

A. God is the source of our hope and we can trust him.

- God makes a **promise** to us.

*And this same God who takes care of me will supply **all** your needs from his glorious riches, which **have been given** to us in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:19

- God **points** out our need to respond. (Matthew 9:9)

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple,"...So Matthew got up and **followed** Jesus.* Matthew 9:9

- God details the **process**. (I Peter 1:7).

*These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested...* I Peter 1:7

**I. THE PRESSURES OF LIFE TEST OUR HOPE**

A. How do you handle stress and fear?

- Avoid it. Complain about it. Anesthetize it. Displace it.

B. Do we go to God first or ????

- He is ready and wanting for us to ask for his help.

*Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.* Psalm 50:15

- We dig our own hole and then we ask God to bless it.

**II. PEOPLE TEST OUR HOPE**

A. How do we handle disappointment?

B. The problem is not "other people" but what we expect of people.

- We need to be able to trust people (limited, inconsistent, absent)
- We trust them instead of trusting **God** (unlimited, consistent, always there).

*My old self (which would have unrealistic expectations of others) has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by **trusting in the Son of God**...* Galatians 2:20

**III. A THIRD TEST IS THE PRIORITY TEST**

A. What will be our top priority?

*"So, don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things **dominate the thoughts** of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows **all** of your **needs**. Seek the Kingdom of God above **all else, and live righteously and he will give you everything you need.**"* Matthew 6:31-33

B. Many (often good things) are **competing** for the top spot in our lives.

C. Faith and life are about three priorities:

- What do you **think** about most?

***This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory.*** 2 Peter 3:1

- Where does your **money** go first?

***Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship – the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored...*** Deuteronomy 14:23

- How do I **spend** my time?

***Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind...love your neighbor as yourself.”*** Matthew 22:37, 39

**CONCLUSION:**