



## Faith Tested by Fire

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23:6 NKJV*

### Number 29 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

King David wrote these words out of his relationship with God and a life of faith tested by fire. Throughout the book of Psalms and many other portions of scripture, David wrote of going through temptations, trials, and tests of his spirit, soul, and body. As he experienced God’s faithfulness, goodness, and mercy, his faith matured.

In Psalms 34:1-9 (NIV), David wrote, *“I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and He delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.”*

Beloved, those words express my heart toward God for His goodness and mercy to me in my times of suffering as He continues to test, to try, and to purify my faith by fire. Job’s faith was also tested by fire. In Job 23:10 (NIV), he wrote, *“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”* Job wrote this after the death of all his children. He lost seven sons and three daughters. After the loss of all he

owned, his health was in ruins. Beloved, like many of you, I have suffered many tests and trials. I have lost loved ones and experienced serious health problems for years. I have not known why these things happened, but this I have known: I have constantly experienced God’s amazing grace and His goodness and mercy toward me. My faith and trust in Him have grown daily. Christ has never failed me.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) reads, *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NASB) reads, *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”*

Beloved, your faith is being tested by fire. God loves you, and you can totally trust Him. He is in control of all the situations in your life.

*— Janice McBride*

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