

## House On The Rock Life Group Study outline

### April: Faith under Fire

#### Week 2

##### Introduction

A time of testing is often a time of stress, difficulty and pain. But it is also a time of opportunity. When our faith is tested, we have an opportunity to hit the reset button, so that everything that held us back from fulfilling our true potential is burned away by the fire, leaving only that which is imperishable. No wonder the Bible asks us to rejoice when our faith is tried - not because we enjoy the process, but because we see the end goal. There is no better example of this than our Lord Jesus, of whom the Bible says in Heb 12:2 (Good News Translation): *Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne.* We believe that, through faith, we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We must also accept that the route to actualising our heavenly position will involve the testing of our faith. But the great news is this – just like Jesus Christ our example, we are guaranteed victory and glory if we can stand firm!

##### Pilot text

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

***James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.***

##### Standing Firm through the Fiery Test of Faith

- How should we respond when our faith is challenged?
  - Heb 4:14, Heb 10:23, 2 Tim 1:13, Rev 3:11, Jude 1:3, 1 Tim 6:12, 2 Tim 4:7
- What practical and real-life steps can we take in order to stand firm? We will look at some case studies from the Bible:
  - **Moses** - Heb 11:24-29, Exodus chapters 2-4, Num 12:3.
  - **Joseph** - Gen 37-50, Psa 105:17.
  - **The Early Church** - Acts 1-6, 13- 16, 22; Col 3:5-8, 2 Tim 1:13, Heb 3:6
- Take home actions
  - Think about specific situations in your life which you feel are challenging your faith. Using the lessons learned from today, consider and write down the steps that you need to take in order hold fast to your faith and emerge victorious.