

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

GENUINE FAITH

By JOEL C. GREGORY

First, I believe that the testing we go through demonstrates the genuineness of our faith. In the phrase "the testing of your faith," the word "testing:" is an almost untranslatable word. The Williams version explains it as showing what is "genuine in your faith." The idea refers to iron ore that has gone through the refining fire and comes out the other side clean and pure and genuine. This is the word Job used when he said, "when he has tried me in the fire, I will come out like gold."

Actually, there may be something suspect about a faith that has never been tested. An army going through basic training is not ready for battle. Not until soldiers have faced the battle, and been proven, hardened, worthy. A ship cannot prove that it has been sturdily built as long as it stays in dry dock. It's hull must get wet; it must face a storm to demonstrate genuine seaworthiness. The same is true of our faith. When we hold fast to belief in Christ in spite of life's storms and crushing criticism, that is when we demonstrate the genuineness of our faith.