

## Failing God's Tests

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5

I find that the older I become, the more acutely obvious these words are. The Apostle Paul teaches: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."<sup>1</sup> **God introduces trials and tribulations in each believer's life to purify his hope.**

With increased age I find that while the tests God brings in my life remain constant, my capacity (mental, physical, and emotional) to handle them wanes. A number of years ago a businessman graphed two lines intersecting at about age 40: decreasing capacity and increasing responsibility. few things in life are as frustrating to me. Each day I plead with God to either come for His Church, or for me personally. I find that I can easily become discouraged as I constantly fail God's tests.

<sup>1</sup> Romans 5:3-5