

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

**My child, when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for trials.**

**Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of adversity.**

**Cling to him,
do not leave him,
that you may prosper in your last days.**

**Accept whatever happens to you;
in periods of humiliation be patient.**

**For in fire gold is tested,
and the chosen,
in the crucible of humiliation.**

**Trust in God, and he will help you;
make your ways straight and hope in him.**

**You that fear the Lord,
wait for his mercy,
do not stray lest you fall.**

**You that fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.**

You that fear the LORD,

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**hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.**

Consider the generations long past and see:

**has anyone trusted in the Lord
and been disappointed?**

Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken?

Has anyone called upon him and been ignored?

**For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;
forgives sins and saves in time of trouble.**

The Word of the Lord