

**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**