

Text: Are you being tested?



Is Life our **test** from God?

For our final lesson of this series, we examine the question of whether life, itself, is God's way of testing our allegiance to Him. When you think about it, the experience of life has many ups and downs, twists and turns, challenges and dilemmas. As we face what life brings our way, I have wondered whether God sits on high and looks down upon us to see how we deal with the situations we are confronted with. *Do we respond in obedience and faith, or do yield to temptation and crumble in fear and doubt?* Could it be that God allows temptation and difficulties because He wants to see if we are able to stand up strong for Him under the pressure of sin and strife? We examine the notion that life could be a test from God in this week's lesson...

There are different types of tests...

- Tests in school to prove that you have learned a subject well
- Driving tests to prove that you are fit to operate an automobile
- Employment tests that signal whether or not you can perform a particular job well
- Certification tests that demonstrate that you are worthy of being deemed as “proficient” in some skill area

Is **Life** God’s Big Test?

Does God use our life situations and challenges as a test so that He can see what we’re made of? Does He watch our reactions to what we’re faced with in life and then judge us accordingly?

*To Him who **overcomes...***

- Revelation 2: 7, 10, 26
- Revelation 3: 4-5, 21
 - In these scriptures, what do you think is meant by the word “overcomes?”
 - In the last days, Satan may be allowed to test us. Satan is testing the world right now through temptation and grief. What do you think is Satan’s goal in Revelation 2:10?

Life Lesson: Through all the sin, strife, problems and chaos that we go through in our life experience, our goal is to overcome it all. Overcoming means to stay faithful to God despite the temptation and pain that Satan brings our way. Satan is a mighty opponent. Just look at our world today and how many people he has control over. The only way that we can overcome him and win the war is to have a strong relationship with God and rely upon Him to fight Satan for us.

Are we being tested?

- God has a history of allowing his children to be tested. We now will take a look at a few bible characters that endured major tests in their lives.
 - Adam and Eve
 - Abraham and Isaac
 - Job

Adam and Eve

- God has created the Earth and He has given Adam and Eve everything in the Garden of Eden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the Garden. He has told them that they must not eat of it or they will die.
- Genesis 3: 1-6
 - This is the Lord's garden. He can have anything he wants in His garden and He can take anything out of His garden that He doesn't want there. *Why did the Lord allow the forbidden tree to remain in the Garden of Eden in the first place? Why didn't He just remove it so that it would not be there to tempt Adam and Eve?*
 - What did God learn about Adam and Eve from their experience with the forbidden tree?
 - How is our obedience tested today?

Abraham

- God gives His servant, Abraham a son in his old age. Isaac is Abraham's only child, his only son. Isaac is special to Abraham. Abraham is tested when the Lord asks him to sacrifice his only son.
- Genesis 22: 1-12
 - Why did God ask Abraham to slay his only son, Isaac?
 - Why did God wait so late to intervene and stop Abraham from killing Isaac? What was God looking for in Abraham's character?
 - What did God learn about Abraham during this ordeal that Abraham suffered?
 - How is our faith tested today? How do we show God that we are passing the "faith test?"

Life Lesson:

Sometimes, we find ourselves in challenging situations and dilemmas because God wants to see if we will keep our **faith** despite what we are facing. Just as he tested Abraham's faith and obedience, He tests us today. What are you facing today? Is God pleased with how you are handling it? Are you keeping your faith in God despite your circumstances?

Job

- Satan asks God for permission to attack Job. Confident that Job can withstand the attack and keep his faith, God grants Satan permission to attack his servant.
- Job 1: 1-22, Job 2: 1-10
 - Job has lost everything. His family, his finances, and people he cared about. Everything he worked hard for is gone. In the second attack, Job loses his health. Sounds a lot like the attacks we endure. Doesn't it?
 - What is Satan's goal in attacking Job? Is there a purpose for the pain he is enduring? What is the Lord looking for in Job's handling of this attack?

Job

- When Job passes the first test? What happens next? Don't we sometimes suffer multiple attacks in life?
- In verse 9, Satan is using Job's wife to achieve his goal of causing Job to curse God?
- Do you believe that Satan tests us today and that the Lord observes our reactions?
- How does Satan test us today?

Are you being tested in your **life** now? What is the Lord looking for in you as you face this difficulty?

How can you make sure you pass this test?

James 1: 2-4

2 Timothy 4: 7-8

Is Life a **Test**?

Certainly through scripture we know that God has a history of testing His people. Ultimately, the fate of a human being is to spend eternity with God or to be condemned to hell. The things that we face in life are our "proving ground". We are judged according to how we perform in our life experience. God allows certain things to happen in our lives. Satan definitely does his share of presenting us with temptations and obstacles. How we deal with these situations and the decisions we make are all part of the criteria upon which we are judged. The good news is that if you don't feel that you are performing well on your personal life test, ask God for forgiveness, a greater faith in Him and for protection from the Enemy. Ask Him for strength, courage and wisdom as you face the mighty test of life...