

Does God Test the Righteous?

Jeremiah 20:12

As we all get older, things tend to fade with time. But one kind of event lives long in the memory. I'm talking about the process to evaluate your progress, or tests for short. It can even be a nerve racking experience for some; who get paralysed by fear, and can't remember anything.

Just as our academic path has different levels or grades; so does our spiritual journey with Our Lord Jesus. How well are most people doing?

Hebrews 5: 8 to 6: 3 - though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is , those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

The answer then is; not very good; for most people.

And so that we can know how we are doing; God puts us through testing.

Our Lord Jesus Christ even went through them too. Luke 4: 1 & 2 - And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Our Lord, with the power of the Holy Spirit; was able to overcome the temptations of the devil, and pass His testing. One often wonders why so many believers refuse the help that Our Heavenly Father has given us, in Jesus' Name. Maybe that's why they are failing to overcome the devil and his demons.

Are there any examples of how Our Heavenly Father tests us? And to avoid confusion, we'll use the NKJV. Genesis 22: 1 - Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, & said to him, Abraham! And he said, Here I am.

Exodus 15: 25 & 26 - So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed

him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them, "and said, If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.

Exodus 16: 4 - Then the LORD said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

Exodus 20: 20 - And Moses said to the people, Do not fear; for God has come to test you & that His fear may be before you so that you may not sin.

Deuteronomy 8: 2 - And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Deuteronomy 8: 16 - who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end-

Deuteronomy 13: 3 - you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Judges 2: 19 to 23 - And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way. Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, "I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, "so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

Judges 3: 1 - Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan

Judges 7: 4 - But the LORD said to Gideon, The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go.

1 Chronicles 29: 17 - David - I know also, my God, that You test the heart

and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

2 Chronicles 32: 31 - Hezekiah - However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.

Job 7:17 & 18 - What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him, That You should visit him every morning, & test him every moment?

Job 23: 10 - But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

Psalms 7: 9 - Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.

Psalms 11: 4 & 5 - The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

Psalms 17:3 - You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

Psalms 105: 19 - Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

Proverbs 17: 3 - The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.

Isaiah 48: 10 - Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Jeremiah 11: 20 - But, O LORD of hosts, You who judge righteously, Testing the mind and the heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them, For to You I have revealed my cause.

Jeremiah 12: 3 - But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart toward You. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for the day of slaughter.

Jeremiah 17: 10 - I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 20: 12 - But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, And see the mind and heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them; For I have pleaded my cause before You.

Ezekiel 21: 13 - Because it is a testing, And what if the sword despises even the scepter? The scepter shall be no more, says the Lord GOD.

Zechariah 13: 9 - I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them

as silver is refined, & test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, & I will answer them. I will say This is My people; & each one will say The Lord is my God.

John 6: 6 - But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

1 Corinthians 3: 13 - each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

1 Thessalonians 2: 4 - But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

Hebrews 11: 17 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

James 1: 2 to 5 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

1 Peter 1: 6 to 9 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see [Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 3: 10 - Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

So, as we have seen in both the old and New Testaments, we are constantly being tested by Our Heavenly Father.

This is to refine and purify us; so we can do the greater works that Our Lord said we could do.

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