

# Passing the Test

Testing is ***essential*** whenever failure would have significant consequences.

- In 1993, my son was in Grade 8 ...
- When we buy a used car ...
- When someone's house is on fire & they call the fire department ...
- Jesus declares something frightening?! ...

**Mat 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

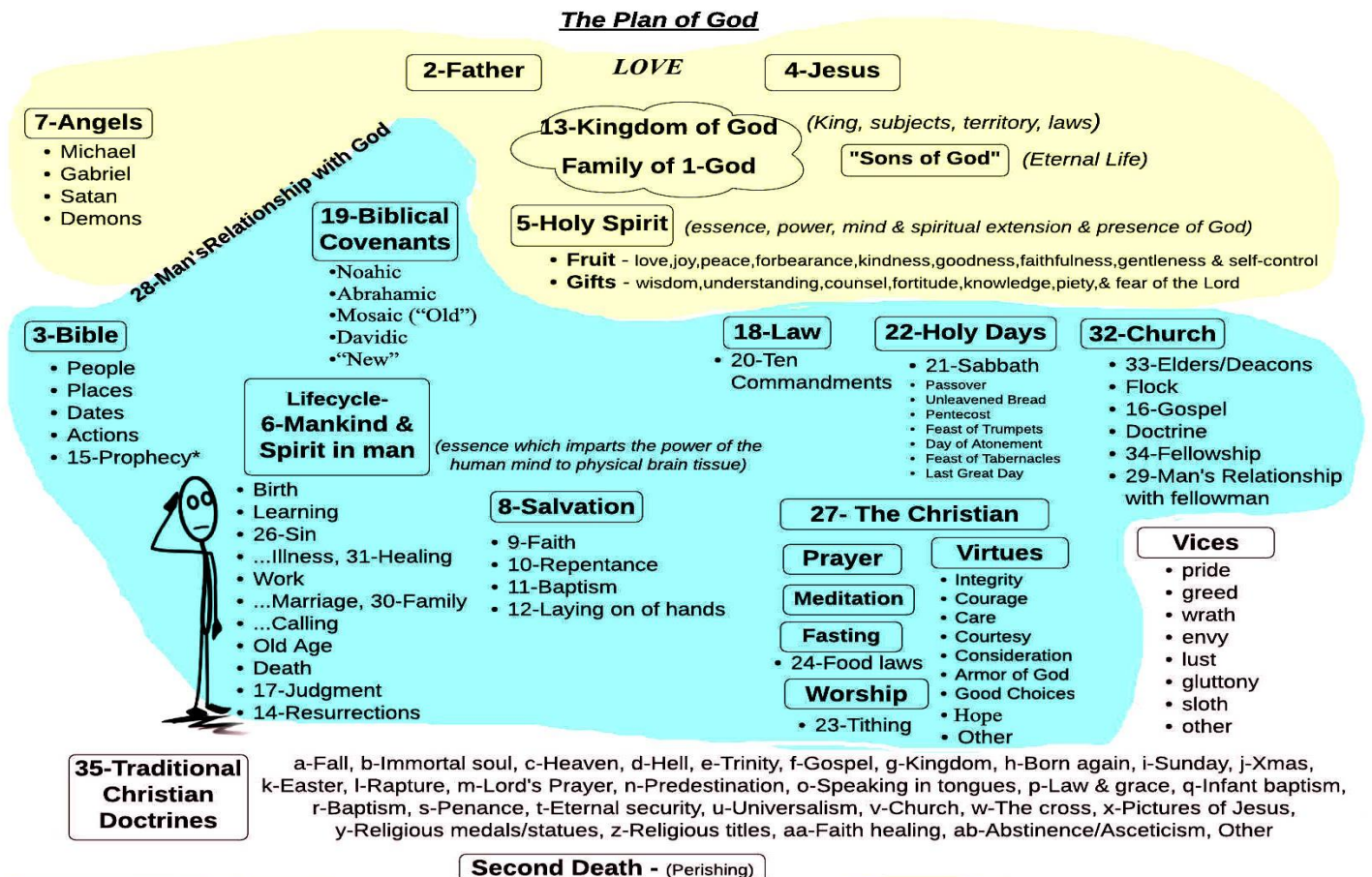
Mat 7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

Mat 7:23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Many of us **HATE** "tests" because of ...

- Fear of embarrassment or being judged
- Anxiety & stress
- Consequences

Today's message will explore the **scriptural reality** of "testing" & its role in our Christian walk



**Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present -(World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy\*) ... Eternity ...)**

Scripture contains several prayers where **people explicitly ask** God to **test, examine, prove, try, search, or investigate them**. These requests are usually made because the person desires vindication, spiritual growth, self-examination, or confirmation of sincerity before God.

### 1. David: "Test me and know my heart"

**Psalm 26:1-3** Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my **integrity**. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. Examine me, **O LORD**, and prove me; Try my mind and my **heart** (*Sincerity*). For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

### 2. David: "Refine me like precious metal"

**Psalm 26:2** Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try (*implies refining metals*) my mind and my heart.

#### Why David asked

- To remove hidden impurities.
- To have his motives purified.



### 3. David: "Search me and reveal anything wicked" \*

**Psalm 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

#### Why David asked

- He recognized that he might not fully know his own heart.
- He wanted hidden sins exposed.
- He desired guidance into eternal life and righteousness.

\* This is perhaps the clearest biblical example of a believer voluntarily inviting God's examination.

### 4. David: "Test my righteousness"

**Psalm 7:8-9** The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, & according to my integrity within me. Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts & minds

#### Why David asked

- He was falsely accused.
- He sought divine vindication.
- He trusted God's ability to discern true motives.

### 5. David: "Let God judge between me and my enemies"

**Psalm 17:1-3** Hear a just cause, O LORD, Attend to my cry... You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing..."

#### Why David welcomed testing

- To establish innocence regarding the accusations against him.
- Because he believed examination would reveal sincerity.

### 6. Jeremiah: "Let God examine me"

**Jeremiah 12:3** But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, & You have tested my heart toward You..."

## 7. Jeremiah: "Let God investigate my case"

**Jeremiah 17:10** I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways..."

### Why this matters

Jeremiah's teaching assumes that God's people should welcome divine examination because God sees what humans cannot.

## 8. Job: "Let God weigh me"

**Job 31:6** Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity.

## 9. Job: "When He has tested me"

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

### Why Job accepted testing

- He believed testing would ultimately prove his faithfulness.
- He expected refinement and purification through trial.

## 10. The Bride's Prayer for Examination of Love



**Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (MSG)** Hang my locket around your neck, wear my ring on your finger. Love is invincible facing danger and death. Passion laughs at the terrors of hell. The fire of love stops at nothing-- it sweeps everything before it. Flood waters can't drown love, torrents of rain can't put it out. Love can't be bought, love can't be sold-- it's not to be found in the marketplace.

### Why relevant

Biblically, genuine love is often demonstrated & tested rather than merely professed.

## New Testament examples ...

**11. 2 Cor 13:5** Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves...

### Why

- To ensure genuine conversion.
- To identify spiritual weaknesses.
- To confirm Christ is truly dwelling within.

**12. James 1:2-4** Count it all joy when you fall into various trials...

### Why

- Trials test faith & Tested faith produces patience and maturity.

A common theme across these passages is that faithful servants were **not** asking for testing out of curiosity or self-confidence. They desired **God's examination** because they trusted His judgment, wanted hidden flaws exposed, sought purification, and valued God's approval above human opinion.

## Summary: Why God's Servants Asked to Be Tested

| Reason  | Key Scripture             |
|---|---------------------------|
| To prove integrity                            | Psalm 26:1-2; Job 31:6    |
| To expose hidden sin                          | Psalm 139:23-24           |
| To refine character                           | Psalm 26:2; Job 23:10     |
| To receive vindication from false accusations | Psalm 7:8-9; Psalm 17:1-3 |
| To demonstrate loyalty to God                 | Jeremiah 12:3             |
| To gain God's guidance                        | Psalm 139:24              |
| To confirm genuine faith                      | 2 Corinthians 13:5        |
| To grow spiritually through trials            | James 1:2-4               |

## Scriptural Examples of God's tests



### 1. Abraham — The Sacrifice of Isaac

**Genesis 22:1-2, 12** Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering...' ... "And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.'

**Hebrews 11:17** — "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac..."

### 2. The Israelites — Wilderness Testing

**Deuteronomy 8:2-3** 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. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know...

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

### 3. Hezekiah — The Test of Pride

**2 Chronicles 32:31** 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.

### 4. Job — The Test of Suffering

**Job 1:6-12** — *God permits Satan to test Job's faithfulness:*

"And the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God & shuns evil?'

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

## 5. The Disciples — The Test of Belief ... (Feeding 5000!)

**John 6:5-6** (MSG) When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people? He said this to stretch (NKJV - test) Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.



## 6. The Testing of Jesus

**Matt 4:1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in **all points** tempted as we are, yet without sin."

## 7. The Testing of Believers' Faith

**1 Peter 1:6-7** 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...

**James 1:2-3, 12** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience... Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

## 8. The Testing of Hearts

**1 Chronicles 29:17** (NKJV) — "I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness."

### Key Purposes of God's Tests in Scripture:

- To reveal what is truly in the heart (Deuteronomy 8:2)
- To humble and refine (Deuteronomy 8:16)
- To strengthen faith and produce endurance (James 1:3-4)
- To prove genuine commitment (Genesis 22:12)
- To do good in the end (Deuteronomy 8:16)
- To bring forth praise, honour, and glory (1 Peter 1:7)

## Testing that God will not do?

### 1. God Does Not Tempt People to Sin

**James 1:13** Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

#### What this means

- God may test faith, obedience, loyalty, patience, and character.
- God never entices someone to commit evil.
- The desire to sin comes from human lusts, not from God.

**James 1:14-15** But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires & enticed

## 2. God Does Not Test Beyond a Person's Ability to Endure

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able

### What this means

God limits tests and temptations.

He promises:

- not to allow them to exceed what can be endured,
- to provide a way of escape,
- to preserve the possibility of faithfulness.

This does not mean tests are easy, but that God remains in control of their ultimate extent.

## 3. God Does Not Afflict Willingly

**Lamentations 3:33** For He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men.

### What this means

God may permit suffering for correction, growth, or judgment, but He does not enjoy causing pain. Testing is purposeful rather than cruel.

## 4. God Does Not Pervert Justice During Testing

**Deuteronomy 32:4** He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice...

**Job 34:10-12** Far be it from God to do wickedness...

### What this means

God never conducts an unjust, dishonest, or arbitrary test. His examinations are always righteous.

## 5. God Does Not Show Partiality in His Judgments

**Romans 2:11** For there is no partiality with God.

**Acts 10:34** God shows no partiality.

### What this means

God's testing is not biased by:

- wealth,
- social position,
- ethnicity,
- status,
- influence.

Everyone is measured by the same righteous standards.

## 6. God Does Not Test Because He Lacks Knowledge

Humans test to discover unknown information. God already knows everything.

**Psalms 139:1-4** "O LORD, You have searched me and known me."

**1 John 3:20** "...God is greater than our heart, and knows all things."

### What this means

God's tests are not for His benefit.

They reveal things - to the person being tested - to others - & sometimes to spiritual beings

Yet ... in 2 examples we already have seen

**Gen 22:12** (*Abraham Offering Isaac*) ... "now I know"

**Deu 8:2** (*40 Year Wander*) ...to humble you & test you, to know what was in your heart..



**7. God Does Not Lie or Deceive in His Testing**

**Numbers 23:19** God is not a man, that He should lie...

**Titus 1:2** ...God, who cannot lie...

**What this means**

God never administers tests through falsehood, dishonesty, or deception on His own part. His promises remain trustworthy throughout the testing process.

**8. God Does Not Forget Mercy While Testing**

**Psalms 103:13-14** For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

**Hebrews 4:15** (*our High Priest can*) ...sympathize with our weaknesses...

**What this means**

God's tests are administered with full awareness of human weakness.

Mercy accompanies judgment.

**9. God Does Not Delight in the Destruction of Those Being Tested**

**Ezekiel 33:11** I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

**2 Peter 3:9** Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**What this means**

God's purpose in testing is ordinarily: - repentance - growth - purification - salvation  
*NOT* destruction

**Important Distinction: Testing vs. Tempting**

Many biblical difficulties become clearer when this distinction is understood.

**Testing**

Comes from God

Designed to strengthen faith

Reveals character

Leads toward righteousness

Example: Abraham  
(Genesis 22:1)

**Tempting**

Never comes from God

Designed to produce sin

Corrupts character

Leads toward evil

Example: Satan tempting Jesus  
(Matthew 4:1-11)



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**Important Note! Humans Are Forbidden to Test God**

**Deu 6:16** 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.'

**Why?**

This command to Israel reveals that while God faithfully tests His people, He Himself is faithful & does not need to be tested by humans. His testing of mankind is purposeful & just; human testing of God is presumptuous.

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No "testing" (*Demanding*) God to:

- Instantly heal - instantly "bless you" with more money than you tithe - etc

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**“God's Resources” to help our Christian Walk (& Tests!)**

The NKJV presents God's provision as **complete and sufficient** — believers lack no resource needed to successfully endure testing and live godly lives.

| <b>Resource</b> | <b>Key Scripture</b>  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Holy Spirit     | John 14:16-17         |
| Grace           | 2 Corinthians 12:9    |
| Strength        | Philippians 4:13      |
| Wisdom          | James 1:5             |
| Armor of God    | Ephesians 6:11-17     |
| Peace           | Philippians 4:7       |
| Faith           | Romans 12:3           |
| The Word        | Psalms 119:105        |
| Prayer Access   | Hebrews 4:16          |
| Angels          | Psalms 91:11-12       |
| Spiritual Gifts | 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 |
| The Church      | Ephesians 4:11-12     |
| Mercy           | Lamentations 3:22-23  |
| Hope            | Romans 15:13          |
| Love            | Romans 5:5            |
| All Needs Met   | Philippians 4:19      |

**Summary of Self-Tests in Scripture**

| <b>Self-Test</b>           | <b>Scripture</b>     | <b>Question Being Asked</b>     |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Examine your faith         | 2 Corinthians 13:5   | Am I truly in Christ?           |
| Judge yourself             | 1 Corinthians 11:31  | What sins need repentance?      |
| Examine your work          | Galatians 6:4        | Are my actions pleasing to God? |
| Examine before Passover    | 1 Corinthians 11:28  | Am I approaching God properly?  |
| Examine your ways          | Lamentations 3:40    | Am I drifting from God?         |
| Consider your ways         | Haggai 1:5,7         | What are my priorities?         |
| Test teachings             | 1 John 4:1           | Is this doctrine true?          |
| Test all things            | 1 Thessalonians 5:21 | Have I verified what I believe? |
| Search your heart          | Psalms 77:6          | What motives drive me?          |
| Use God's Word as a mirror | James 1:23-25        | Am I obeying what I know?       |
| Count the cost             | Luke 14:28           | Am I fully committed to Christ? |

**Biblical Principle ...**

**Voluntary self-examination often precedes or reduces the need for corrective divine testing**

"If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged (1 Cor 11:31)"