

Bible Study

Put to the Test

Is your love for God sincere? Or is it simply a natural reaction to the prosperous life and other blessings He has showered on you?

When God allows you or a loved one to experience hardship, or asks you to sacrifice something precious, you will know exactly where you stand in your commitment to Him. Scripture calls this process “testing.” In this Bible study, you’ll learn more about the purpose and rewards of being tested by God, as well as what He expects from you in the midst of difficulty.

1. Testing is a normal part of a righteous life.

Testing shouldn’t be considered an unusual experience for believers. All righteous people are tested from time to time by the One who knows their minds and hearts ([Jer. 20:12](#)).

Scripture compares testing to the refining process for precious metals. The metals are heated until all the impurities float to the top so they can be removed.

- What do you think is God’s primary goal for allowing us to be refined ([Zech. 13:9](#))?

One example of a righteous person experiencing testing is Job.

- According to [Job 1:8-12](#), why did God allow Satan to afflict Job?

Read [1 Peter 4:12-14](#).

- Why should we consider ourselves blessed if we suffer for Christ (v. 13 & 14)?

God usually uses affliction to test us (Isa. 48:10). However, sometimes we are tested by blessings as well. [Proverbs 27:21](#) says, “Each is tested by the praise accorded him.”

- Why does praise test a person?
- How can material blessings, such as a generous salary or a large inheritance, test someone?

2. God uses testing to reveal our hearts to us ([Deut. 13:3](#)).

The Lord already knows our hearts. However, He uses testing to reveal to us our true priorities so we can adjust them if necessary. Are we focused on the blessings He has granted and the promises He’s fulfilled? Or is our relationship with Him our top priority?

For instance, in [Genesis 22:2](#), God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. This was a common practice of pagan religions at the time, although godly people didn’t observe it.

Abraham had waited many, many years before Sarah bore Isaac, and his son was a miracle child, born in their old age. Yet he quickly set out to obey God.

- Why do you think Abraham was willing to obey God in this matter ([Gen. 22:1-19](#))?

- According to [Hebrews 11:17-19](#), what enabled Abraham to obey the Lord?
- Has God ever given you a dream and then asked you to be willing to give it up for Him, perhaps for a season?
- Do you have a blessing, talent, or ministry that has become a higher priority to you than obeying the Lord or spending time with Him?

3. We must continue to honor and obey God when we are tested.

- What do you think are the consequences of failing to respond faithfully to God in the midst of suffering ([Jer. 17:10](#))?
- What is impressive about the way Job handled suffering ([Job 2:6-10](#))?

Later, Job said, “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him” ([Job 13:15](#)). In other words, Job was determined to hope in God, no matter what happened. He would continue to declare that he was innocent and ask why God felt he had to suffer.

- What can you learn from Job about how to respond to testing?

4. God rewards us when we pass successfully through a season of testing.

- Summarize the blessing God gave Abraham when he passed the test concerning Isaac ([Gen. 22:17-18](#)).
- What did Job receive once God had taught him more about the Lord’s greatness during his testing ([Job 42:10-17](#))?
- According to the following passages, what blessings result when we successfully pass through testing?

[Matthew 5:11-12](#)

[James 1:3-4](#)

[James 1:12](#)

[1 Peter 1:7](#)

[Revelation 3:5](#)

[Revelation 3:21](#)

Closing: Testing is never pleasant, but its fruit certainly is. For His glory and our benefit, God asks us to sacrifice what we treasure. The next time God puts you to the test, be obedient. As a result, you will profit spiritually and earn matchless eternal rewards.

Prayer: Lord, when I am tested, help me focus on the eternal rewards instead of on my temporary suffering or sacrifice. Grant me the desire and strength to draw near to You and be faithful, no matter what. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen