


Proverbs 17: 3

Testing the Heart

A large, glowing orange-red refining pot is tilted, pouring a thick stream of molten metal into a furnace. The furnace is filled with bright yellow and orange flames. The scene is set against a dark background, highlighting the intense heat and light of the refining process.

**The refining
pot *is* for
silver
and
the furnace
for gold,**

but the Lord “tests” the hearts.

The Hebrew word translated
as “test” in the OT is
bachan.

It means to “examine,
investigate, prove, scrutinize.”

The Greek word translated as
“test” in the NT is
dokimazo.

It means to “put to the test,
prove, examine, and by
implication, to approve.”

Why does God test our hearts?

Genesis 1: 26

... God said, “Let Us make man in
Our image, according to Our
likeness;

**Let us consider Three Reasons
why God tests our hearts.**

1. His tests build our faith in Him.

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2. His tests prove our love for Him.

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2. His tests prove our love for Him.

3. His tests strengthen our spiritual endurance to reach our heavenly home.

Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

¹ “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

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: 1-3

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

NO ONE LIKES TO BE TESTED.

**GOD'S TESTS COME AT
UNEXPECTED MOMENTS IN
OUR LIVES.**

Genesis 6: 1(b), 13-14(a)

Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ... And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood;

Hebrews 11: 7

By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

**GOD'S TESTS WILL PROVIDE
NEW CHALLENGES FOR US TO
OVERCOME.**

Genesis 22: 1-2

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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

Hebrews 11: 17-18

By faith **Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,”

Genesis 22: 8

And **Abraham** said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together.

**GOD'S TESTS WILL REVEAL
WHAT WE VALUE MOST IN OUR
LIVES.**

Acts 7: 55-56

But **Stephen**, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, “Look! I see the heavens open and Son of man standing at the right hand of God!”

Acts 7: 59-60

And they stoned **Stephen** as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 22: 19-21

So I (**Paul**) said, ‘Lord, they know that in every synagogues I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ Then He said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’

Acts 9: 15-16

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go, for he (**Paul**) is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

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**How would we have faired,
if we were tested like some
of those in the OT?**

Hebrews 11: 35(b)-38

... Others were tortured ... trials of mockings and scourgings ... of chains and imprisonment ... stoned ... sawn in two ... tempted ... slain with the sword ... wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins ... destitute ... afflicted ... tormented — ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves.

Do not pray for an easy life.

**Pray for the faith and
strength to endure a
difficult one.**



Jeremiah 17: 10

I, the LORD, search the heart, / test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

Remember – Five, Two, One.

Matthew 25: 14-15

For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to **each according to his own ability**; and immediately he went on a journey.

Matthew 25: 24-25

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there you have what is yours*.

Matthew 25: 26-28

But his lord answered and said to him,
“You wicked and lazy servant, you
knew that I reap where I have not sown
and gather where I have not scattered
seed. So, you ought to have deposited
my money with the bankers, and at my
coming I would have received back my
own with interest.”

Matthew 25: 29-30

So, take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Don't be the one talent servant.

Psalm 10: 13

Why do the wicked renounce God?
He has said in his heart, “You will not
require *an account*.”

1 Peter 4: 4-5

In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

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**Opportunity
may knock only
once, but
temptation
leans on the
doorbell.**



James 1: 2-5

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.



**Remember, God's tests will build
our faith in Him, prove our love
for Him, and strengthen our
spiritual endurance as we run
the race before us.**

Proverbs 3: 5-6

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own
understanding; in all your ways
acknowledge Him and He shall direct
your paths.**

