

Dream On

Passing the Tests That Bring Our Dreams to Pass

Test #2: The Pressure Test

"So 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, 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." Deut. 8:2-3

I. Introduction

"I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" Zechariah 13:9 (NLT)

II. The Key Areas That Pressure Impacts

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*"He shall bring it (the offering) to Aaron's sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the **frankincense**. And the priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, **a sweet aroma to the LORD**...No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire." Leviticus 2:2; 11 (NKJV)*

*"But He (the Lord) knows the way that I take: when He has tested me (pressure), I will come forth as pure **GOLD**." Job 23:10*

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"It is good for me that I have been afflicted (pressure); that I might learn Your statutes (better than gold)." Psalm 119:71

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

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*"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, **but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles away.**" Matthew 13:20-21*

*"For **you have need of endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." Hebrews 10:36*

Remember that quitting is a lot more about WHO you are than WHERE you are

“Diamonds are nothing more than chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs. – Malcolm Forbes

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit...” Romans 5:3-5 (NKJV)

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*“O God of my righteousness: **You have enlarged me** (to broaden; maturity, purity, like gold) when I was in my distress (under pressure).” Psalm 4:1*

*“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but **a dream fulfilled is a tree of life**.” Proverbs 13:12 (NLT)*

*“We are hard pressed on every side, yet **not crushed**; we are perplexed, but **not in despair**; persecuted, but **not forsaken**; struck down, but **not destroyed**...” II Corinthians 4:8-9*

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“So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.” She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.” Genesis 39:6-10 (NLT)

“There are two pains in life: the pain of discipline and the pain of regret. You choose.”

—Wayne Cordiero

Joseph’s Thoughts Concerning Dreams

In the waiting period, _____ will _____ you.

There will be times that even doing what is _____ will seem like it is _____!

What others _____ about you is not nearly as _____ as what you believe about yourself.

ANSWER KEY:

1. Purity

2. Passion and Priorities

3. Perseverance

4. Patience

5. Principles

Temptation----test

Right----wrong

Believe---important