

ARE YOU PASSING GOD'S TESTS?

BY J.P. TIMMONS

December 4, 2016

©2016 CCI PUBLISHING

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold,
I am about to rain bread from heaven for you,
And the people shall go out and gather a
Day’s portion every day, that I may test them,
Whether they will walk in my law or not.’”**

†Exodus 16:4

“For we walk by faith, not by sight”

†2 Corinthians 5:7

Are you passing God’s tests? Most Christians don’t and one reason is because they don’t recognize certain situations as “tests.” Israel had this difficulty early on and it kept all but two of that generation out of the Promised Land.

Every month, and this morning was no exception, when I read Exodus and get to the Passover and all of God’s miracles to deliver Israel out of Egypt and then the miracle at the Red Sea and afterwards I always marvel that they had *trouble* with God’s first tests which involved provision for them—water and food in the desert. Remember, God didn’t choose the straightest path to the Promised Land, did He? Why was that? And if they had already *seen* all the miracles which God performed through Moses why did they have difficulty believing He would provide for them?

If you are ever taken to Heaven and spend some time conversing with the angels and watching them conversing with one another and other humans, one of the things you may observe is that the greatest difficulty they have in understanding us humans is that we do not believe the Word of God. It’s inconceivable to them! And again, why is that? Well if you want to know the answer to anything you can find it in the Word—that’s why I tell Christians all the time, “What does the Word say?”

The Word says, “Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in Heaven.” And if it’s settled in Heaven then it should be settled on earth and especially in our hearts. And that is always the test—are you going to believe the Word and “walk by faith” or are you going to believe what your physical eyes see and walk by sight? Or simply are you going to walk by *physical* sight or with the Eye of the Eagle, i.e., *spiritual eyesight*.

God’s Tests Are Designed to Strengthen our Faith

A principle we should learn from David’s life as well as others in the Scriptures is that the tests we face in life are designed to strengthen our spiritual bodies and build up the spiritual substance of faith. Remember, any person—man or woman—in the land of Israel could

have gone up against Goliath and defeated him. But they were afraid, weren't they? And why were they afraid, including Saul the king? Because they were not walking by faith; they were walking by sight. But David, who is a type of the Bride of Christ, had become strengthened in faith through defeating a lion and a bear in single handed combat so he was not afraid of this man though Goliath was twice as tall as him and he was only a youth. In the days ahead, many very young people will do great exploits for the Kingdom of God because they understand that it's "Not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit," says the Lord." (Zechariah 4:6)

We see this principle in the life of Samson. Samson had his weaknesses, especially in the area of morality, but he also is a living proof text of Zechariah 4:6. It was not his long hair but rather the Spirit of the Lord working in and through him that was the "secret" of his great strength. Now all the Hollywood movies, as is usual for them, do not depict the Scriptures and its principles accurately. And we see that again recently in the movies *Noah* and *Exodus*. But when did you ever see a movie about Samson that showed him to be a skinny little kid?

No, they always chose some bodybuilding weightlifter like Steve Reeves or Arnold Schwarzenegger in his prime to play Samson. Yet the Bible indicates that the Philistines could not figure out the secret of Samson's strength. Let's face it. If he had looked like Steve Reeves—all buffed out with 22" arms and a 56" chest they would not have felt that way, would they? So although the Scriptures don't speak about Samson's physical makeup I think it's obvious that he was not a physical example of body building and I also believe this because it is exactly the way God works. The Bible says that the Lord uses the weak things of the world to "confound the strong" and the "foolish in the world to shame the wise." (1 Cor. 1:27) So I believe Samson appeared to the physical eye as just an ordinary man.

So it's important to understand that God uses tests to grow us up spiritually. As a youth I was involved in weightlifting with my older brother. We both won a number of trophies for weightlifting and body building. As a teenager I didn't want to go on family vacations because I worked out 5-6 days a week and I knew that when you miss even a couple of days you lose strength in those muscle groups. When I went on a 2 week vacation I would lose like 30 pounds on the bench press and more on leg exercises like the squat. Why? Because that physical exercise with more weight causes your muscles to grow and become stronger but the minute you stop you begin to lose strength.

The same is true in the spirit realm—things and circumstances that you faced 15 years ago don't even phase you now because your faith has become stronger. At least that is the plan of God; however, if you fail the tests of God like Israel did over and over then it can lead to God's promises over your life and His plans for you to be canceled and your death may even result as it did theirs.

The Book of Hebrews speaks much about this issue and I've studied it and even written a book on Hebrews. We learn from Hebrews—and you should never forget this—that “they,” i.e., Israel, “could not enter in because of unbelief.” And this is Paul's basis for his key scripture given above that we are supposed to “Walk by faith; not by sight.” Remember, if you don't believe God's promises then you cannot *receive* God's promises. This should be easy for us to understand. If I told you that I had left instructions at my bank for you to receive \$5,000 but you never believed me and thus never went down to the bank you wouldn't receive the money, would you? How much more then when you receive a promise by One who never lies should you not believe the promise?

NOT PASSING GOD'S TESTS CAN COST YOU YOUR LIFE

As stated earlier, failing to pass God's tests can cost you your life. Satan knows this very well and we see how well he knows it from how

he bargained with God to attack Job and his family. And we've seen this over and over with Christians who die prematurely simply because they do not obey the Scriptures and *believe* the Word of God vis a vis their circumstances.

In 2008 when I was rewriting *Mysterious Secrets (MSKD)*, the Holy Spirit spoke to me to add some additional information to help people with cancer. Back in 1980 He had said to me: "Son, the devil is going to put cancer on more and more Christians." That was 36 years ago and haven't we seen that come to pass? I didn't ask Him at that time *why* or perhaps more importantly *how* Satan was going to be able to do this.

Remember, sin is an open door that allows the devil to attack you. But Job didn't have any sin in his life yet Satan was allowed to attack him. So when you don't have any unrepented sin in your life as an open door then you must first look at the situation as a *test* allowed by God to build your faith. Now it's very important then to remember what the Word says. If you respond like Jesus did with the Word, then you will be "okay" yet most Christians I'm sorry to say fail this test and often it costs them their life, e.g., in the case of cancer.

In 2008 when I was rewriting MSDK and the Spirit began speaking to me about cancer specifically, He called my attention to one scripture and it wasn't 1 Corinthians 5:7 but it is another proof text of the principle that people of God we are supposed to "walk by faith and not by sight." He specifically called my attention to 2 Corinthians 4:18:

***"While we look not at the things which are
Seen, but at the things which are not seen:
For the things which are seen are temporal; but the
Things which are not seen are eternal."***

Now if you're real smart, you will memorize this scripture or write this scripture down on a 3x5 card and keep it with you throughout the day

and use it to *renew* that dumb mind of yours or you won't believe what it says. You will continue to do what you are programmed to do by the world. And the Spirit told me this back in 2008. He said, "Son, my people are being defeated in spiritual warfare by the spirit of cancer because they are doing the *opposite* of what that Scripture says they should do—they are *looking* at the things that are seen instead of the things that are not seen.

And if you don't believe Him or me, just read all the posts on Facebook every day by Christians and you'll see that it's true. "I've got this and I've got that; I have to go to the hospital tomorrow for tests; I have surgery tomorrow, etc., etc."

Remember, Jesus is our example in every single area of life and its tests. So why not look to how He handled the "tests" of Satan and what He said which I believe are the most important words that He ever spoke. They're found in both Luke 4:4 and Matthew 4:4,

"It is written, 'That man shall not live by Bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

And if you will go and do likewise, i.e., "live by the Word of God" then you will pass God's tests and those of Satan as well and you will be blessed in all that you set your hand to because the Word also says in Psalm 1:3, "...whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

MARANATHA

