

EVERYTHING IS A TEST

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James 1:2-4

EVERYTHING God gives you is a test. Whatever God gives you will be beneficial for you. However, it is still a test. A test is a method or process of **PROVING** that something is authentic, ready and capable.

Being tested will expose who you are, what you're made of and most importantly, your **MOTIVE**. You may be thinking, why is everything given to me a test? The answer is simple. A test **PROVES** that you are ready to go to the next level?

Being tested shows how much you have learned on your current level. Being tested reveals your aptitude on your current level. Being tested highlights your strengths and

exposes your weakness to determine if you ready for what is greater.

The Lord is **NOT** complacent. He is forever moving forward and looking ahead. Remember, God lives in eternity. Eternity has no end, it only has a **NEXT**. The Lord is always looking to take you higher and give you more. However, if you fail to master where you are you will **DELAY** God's will for your life.

Every new blessing comes with new testing. Being tested by God does not carry the same stress as being tested by people. In most cases, you do not even know you are being tested by God until the Holy Spirit tells you.

WHY DOES GOD TEST YOU?

James 1:2-4 says, "My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you

do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need."

The Lord's tests are meant to strengthen your faith. Your faith is **CURRENCY** in the Kingdom of God. As your currency is strengthened, your value will increase in the Kingdom of God.

Righteous people live by faith. Romans 1:17 says, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

Since faith determines how righteous people live, your faith **MUST** be tested so it can grow and mature. You can casually believe God with weak faith but you cannot live with weak faith. You can talk about weak faith with people but you cannot live with weak faith.

Anytime something becomes the focal point of how you **LIVE** it must be able to stand the test of time because if you lose it, you'll lose everything. For example, adult

bodies are made up of sixty percent water. Water is the dominant nutrient that helps keep our body functioning properly.

If you do not drink the correct amount of water on a daily basis your lungs, kidneys, skin, bones and muscles will be negatively impacted. Faith works the same way.

If your faith is not tested your mind, spirit and emotions will **NOT** work properly. The core of who you are is driven by faith, hoping and believing for more. If your faith is weak how can you become the best person you can be?

YOU CANNOT GROW UNTIL YOUR TESTED

You cannot pass to the next grade in school until you are tested. You cannot graduate from college until you are tested. You cannot get promoted on your job until you are tested. Going to a greater level in life **REQUIRES** testing.

Some test are big and others are small. However, everything is still a test. You will never receive **MORE** in this life until you have **PROVEN** that you can handle what you currently have.

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN:

- If you cannot keep your apartment clean, God will **NOT** give you a house to manage. Why? You have failed to prove that you can handle small things.
- If you cannot manage working in excellence on your own, God will **NOT** allow you to lead other people toward excellence. Why? You have failed to prove that you can handle small things.
- If you cannot manage your checkbook, God will **NOT** give you charge over a person's business affairs. Why? You have failed to prove that you can handle small things.

EVERYTHING IS A TEST! What you have been given is a proving ground for where you want to go. Remember, if you are faithful over a few, God will put you in charge over many things. However, if you are irresponsible over what you have you will never attain more.

Do not discount what is in your possession. Manage it, care for it, build it, cultivate it, nurture it and use it wisely. That thing in your possession is not only a blessing, it is a **TEST!** A test that is not from men but from God.

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