



How things fit together in the Kingdom

What is Testing?

Tests are a part of our life as a son, so we need to understand them and handle them properly when they come our way. If we don't understand them correctly, we will reject them or baulk at them, causing ourselves to be out of alignment with the Trinity's plans. That's because testing is essential.

Tests are for patience, endurance and perseverance.¹ They produce these in us when we successfully handle them. Here's James writing on this:

James 1:2-3 (NKJV) – *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*².

Like a vigorous sport, a person's endurance ('stick-ability') is tested in every game as to whether they can 'stick with it' until the end and produce skills that will help themselves or their team win. We all understand this as we watch a team game of soccer, rugby or hockey. It's probably more noticeable in individual sports like marathon running, the *Tour de France* cycle race, an iron man surf race or a 34km swim across the English Channel.

Sports demonstrate that the testing during every contest trains the better athletes to improve their performance and to increase their endurance. They also show that weaker individuals give up and don't reach a higher skill level through the continual process of game-testing.

The same testing-&-improvement also happens with us in our spiritual life.

The tests we handle are not just to produce various forms of endurance. This may be a surprise to many who quote the 2 verses in James, because he doesn't stop there. We can miss all that he wanted to convey if we just quote specific verses 'off pat'³. Verse 4 is vitally important for our understanding of tests. It states:

James 1:4 (NKJV) – *But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect⁴ and complete, lacking nothing.*

Notice the end result of tests? It's to make us mature (not 'perfect') so we lack nothing in our spirituality.

Now that should make all the difference in our attitude towards being tested.

Let's have a closer look at this verse in other translations:

James 1:4 (AMPC) – *But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.*

James 1:4 (TPT) – *And then as your endurance grows even stronger, it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking.*

James 1:4 (MIRROR) – *steadfastness provides you with a consistent environment, and so patience*

1 – That's the fuller understanding of the Greek translated as 'patience' in verse 3.

2 – Endurance or perseverance classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A2-4&version=NKJV#en-NKJV-30270

3 – i.e. it roles of the tongue but is not a reality to the person

4 – Mature classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A2-4&version=NKJV#en-NKJV-30271

prevails and proves your perfection; how entirely whole you are and without any shortfall.

Notice, then, that if we are to grow and develop into fully mature sons, we need to be tested. It's part of the process of maturation.

You see, we don't become mature through our theology, that's just mental capability. We are to mature as a well-rounded son in every area of our lives. That means our soul (mind, attitudes & emotions), actions and speech need to be in balance with our perfected spirit which was upgraded when we were spiritually reborn. In that way we are "*entirely whole...and without any shortfall*"ⁱⁱ, "*perfectly and fully developed with no defects, lacking in nothing*"ⁱⁱⁱ.

What are tests?

From a Christian perspective, they are what the Bible says about them. In the NT, the word is *peirasmós* (πειρασμός) which can mean: 'a putting to proof' (by experiment of good, experience of evil, solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication, 'adversity', 'temptation' and 'to try'.⁵ According to Thayer, it means: 'an experiment', 'attempt', 'trial', 'proving'.⁶

Peirasmós is derived from *peirázō* (πειράζω) meaning: 'to test' (objectively), i.e. endeavour, scrutinize, entice, discipline; 'to assay', 'examine', 'go about', 'prove', 'tempt(-er)', 'try'.⁷ It's clear from this root word that testing is for a purpose. It's actually a metallurgy term used to describe the process of purifying metals during the production process. Obviously, then, testing for us is for our purification.

Thayer expands the definition to show it's use in life:⁸ "The trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy"; "an enticement to sin, temptation, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances"; "adversity, affliction, trouble: sent by God and serving to test or prove one's character, faith, holiness".

Tests, shakings, etc., come to test our foundations, our core beliefs, 'inner man', and 'spiritual man'. They also test where we put our trust and our wisdom, as well as our maturity in every area of our lives.

The reason why we get confused with 'temptation' and 'testing' is because the English Bibles switch between the two when they translate the Greek, meaning there's no consistency between them. Added to that, we've been trained to think of temptation as a negative thing.^{iv} So, when we read about temptation in our Bibles, we always see the negativity and overlook the testing that goes with it.

Where does testing come from?

Contrary to common belief, 'God'⁹ doesn't actually tempt us. James states this unequivocally:

James 1:13 (NKJV) – *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

Hang on, "tempted" in that verse is *peirázō* and that means quite a few different things including 'testing' – i.e. assaying the purity. Does that mean we aren't tested by 'God'? That would go against a lot of what NT writers have stated.

We can resolve that issue by looking at the verse in other translations:

James 1:13 (AMPC) – *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God" [for*

5 – Strong's G3986 www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G3986/peirasmos.htm

6 – Strong's G3986 www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G3986/peirasmos.htm

7 – Strong's G3985 www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G3985/peirazo.htm

8 – Strong's G3986 www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G3986/peirasmos.htm

9 – 'God': I use this term in inverted commas because 'God' is the generic term people use, while I don't any more. I have an intimate relationship with the members of the Trinity, so I refer to them by name out of relationship.

temptation does not originate from God, but from our own flaws]; for God cannot be tempted by [what is] evil, and He Himself tempts no one.

James 1:13 (TPT) – *When you are tempted don't ever say, "God is tempting me," for God is incapable of being tempted by evil and he is never the source of temptation.*

So, if we understand that it's our base nature¹⁰ (our 'flesh') which leads us to be tempted, then it's not the Trinity leading us to do something unrighteous. The members of the Trinity are righteous, so they CAN'T do anything unrighteous. About this, the MIRROR Bible clearly notes: "God cannot be both the source of light and darkness. Every temptation is an attempt of darkness to intercept light."^v

Who or what tempts us into sin¹¹ (i.e. unrighteousness) then?

As the Trinity can't sin, do evil or anything unrighteous, the source must be outside of Heaven.¹² That's because evil cannot be permitted in the eternal presence of the Trinity as it would be eternally evil. This is why Adam and Ezer were forced out of the Garden. They were originally eternal (non-dying) beings who had entertained evil (rebellion/disobedience) and would have carried that evil with them in their eternal life. That couldn't happen, so they were expelled. [NOTE: That suggests the garden east of Eden was connected to the presence of 'God', not a place on Earth. We see that suggestion in the reference to the garden being near the mountain of God (i.e. the icon of his presence, his throne).]

It's a person's base nature without their control or without enough spiritual maturity which causes them to do things which are unrighteous (ungodly – i.e. out of alignment with Father's wishes). In that way, it's clear that we are tempted to sin by our base nature.

Our enemies (Satan and his demons) work on our mind, emotions and attitudes, stimulating our base nature to gain strength. It then overrides our spiritual strength, causing us to do unrighteous things and say things which are unrighteous. This is easy for them to do because we have a 'fallen' (unregenerated) body and soul, which lives in a 'fallen' world. Everything is 'stacked against us' because of these realities, leaving us easy targets to be tempted by our enemy. He's the tempter, not the Trinity.

What are tests from a Kingdom perspective?

When I'm tested as a son these days, I find that there's a pattern to what happens. This is different to general temptation which works through my base desires. The testing I receive is to challenge me about my recent growth in sonship. For example, I could give them identifiers like these:

- "How much do you now trust me, son?"
- "Let's see if you can actually relax today in the rest you say that you have, son."
- "Do you really have irritability under control, son?"
- "You've pledged to stop thinking negatively, son. Time to check whether you really can do it."

Notice how they originate with Father? He's the one who's intimately involved in seeing me mature and growing up to be like his Son, as he was as a human being. Jesus is our benchmark, the prototype for us to grow up to so we match his sonship. Each time I've made spiritual progress, I'm tested to see if I've really changed in that specific area. It's become normal to expect this, but I accept it without any fear of it occurring.

If my testing originates with Father, how come it manifests as temptation?

10 – "What is 'the Flesh'" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/What-is-the-Flesh.pdf

11 – "Really Understanding What Sin is from a Spiritual Perspective" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Really-Understanding-What-Sin-is-from-a-Spiritual-Perspective.pdf

12 – There are levels in Heaven according to those who visit there on a regular basis. The highest level where the Trinity dwell can never have any form of sin there.
See my diagram from Ian Clayton's conference (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-Multiverse-of-God-1.jpg)
More detailed here (www.freedomtrust.org.uk/AR/Ian%20Clayton%20Diagrams/heaven-realms-1.pdf)

My understanding is that the questions listed above are Father's heart, not his desire to tempt me himself. That should be a correct assumption because he doesn't tempt anyone to be unrighteous in any way.^{vi} (We've already seen that earlier in this teaching). How then, does it manifest as a temptation?

I believe it happens to me in two ways:

1. The enemy gets 'annoyed' that I'm making progress, so he tempts me so I can fail and give up on that area of advancement. If I do fail, it encourages him to do it more often and in other areas, leading to my downfall. When I resist, I'm successful and the temptation stops. When I fail, I repent (I turn from that poor response to the test, to Father's way of responding), ask for forgiveness, and move on. When I'm tempted again, I try to implement Father's way and that keeps cycling until I have lasting victory.
2. In the courts of heaven¹³ and divine council¹⁴, Satan is given permission to tempt us with our King's permission. That's what happened with Job.^{vii} Satan challenged Job's righteous life and was given permission to test it by tempting him to curse 'God' and turn away from following him. Permission was given with parameters that limited what Satan could do to this ancient "son of God".

Therefore, we need to see the difficulties of life, both natural and spiritual, as our testing ground. If we do, we'll approach life like a sports star, you know, "No pain, no gain". With that attitude we'll welcome testing because it's for our own good – we may even get to enjoy them.^{viii}

To help us get the right attitude to testing, let's hear from Father and get his mind on the matter from a Kingdom perspective for the 21st century:

*"Beloved, I have allowed difficult circumstances as a testing ground and even a sort of mirror so that you can see yourself in action. You have been given many and varied opportunities to grow up in all things in Christ. I am bringing you to greater spiritual maturity and giving you occasion to be tested so that you yourself can see the application of this growth in action. For, I have called you to mortify the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit."*¹⁵

*"Haven't I said that the trial of your faith would produce perseverance? I have brought and allowed the current tests so that you can learn to trust Me. You will learn obedience by the things you suffer. Don't get discouraged by the things you face and the obstacles you must overcome. I will strengthen and enable you to overcome. Trust Me. Put your faith in Me!"*¹⁶

I don't know why it is this way, but testing does reveal to us what our heart is like. Here's an example of testing at work which reveals the heart attitude. It's instructions from Father about the process:

*"When I ask questions of you, it is not that I don't know the answers, but rather that I am revealing your own heart to you. When I ask, "Do you love Me?" I already know that you do, but what I want you to consider is how much you love Me. Are you willing to lay aside all that you hold dear to serve Me? Are you willing to put down your own desires, wishes and agendas and do My will? Are you willing to die to the flesh that you might live in the Spirit? You have desired to move in the power and gift of the Holy Spirit, but unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, how can it yield its increase? My desire for you is that you would become an empty vessel, a clay jar, that I can pour into and out of as I will. And, I want your "jar" to be so clean and free of fear, jealousy, bitterness, pride, lust and the like that whatever I pour through you will not be tainted by your vessel. If you will yield yourself totally to Me, I will cleanse you to that degree, and then you will not even notice the pouring in and the pouring out, nor will your eyes be set on the increase. Your eyes will only see Me."*¹⁷

13 – READ: Robert Henderson (2016) "Operating In The Courts Of Heaven"

www.amazon.com.au/Operating-Courts-Heaven-Granting-Fulfill-ebook/dp/B01HYMKFFG

14 – READ: Michael S. Heiser (2016) "The Divine Council in the Pentateuch"

www.amazon.com.au/Divine-Council-Pentateuch-Conference-Paper-ebook/dp/B01MXRHQJ7

15 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws Book" Chapter 4, 'Testing Ground' ft111.com/smallstrawsbook.htm

16 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws Book" Chapter 4, 'The Trial of Your Faith' ft111.com/smallstrawsbook.htm

17 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws Book" Chapter 6, 'Only See Me' ft111.com/smallstrawsbook.htm

Did you see that yellow highlighting? He already knows everything about us, therefore, testing is so we can see what's in our heart.

One question that comes up in this topic, is: “Why does Father allows Satan to remain in existence?” He gave me the answer to that in my prophetic journal on the 2nd March 2016. he showed me that Satan is allowed to remain in existence and to impact our lives for his purposes, not Satan's. What he actually gave me was this:

*“I have him here for my purposes, not his. He's not a puppet, but he works with the machinery of life and time for my ends. That may seem strange, but I'm always in charge. Look to me, not at him.”*¹⁸

To finish off, it's important to understand that testing is also the doorway to advancement. Before we are promoted in the Kingdom we are trained and prepared, but before we are released, we are tested. Our ability and attitudes are tested, as well as our faith to step out into what we've been shown to advance to. Jesus was tested by being tempted to do things other than what weren't Father's plans for him. He succeeded and exited the testing period full of the Spirit,^{ix} which was the benefit of the tests. He proved he was ready for promotion and so was filled to capacity with spiritual anointing so he could operate in power to match his authority as a son. So, testing approves us.^x It also leads to rewards in the next age.^{xi}

REMEMBER: The Trinity sets the protocols for life in the Kingdom, so we need to adhere to them out of love and obedience. If we don't, and we resist, we're in defiance.¹⁹ They've set testing in place, so we'd better agree with it happening so it can be used to fine-tune us.

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3-5-2021

[updated 8-6-2021]

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References are on the next page

18 – “37-Always See Me in Charge, Not the Enemy”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/37-Always-See-Me-in-Charge-Not-the-Enemy.pdf

19 – “WARNING: It's Now More Urgent to Deal with Defiance”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/WARNING-its-now-more-urgent-to-deal-with-defiance.pdf

i **REFERENCES**

- ii – James 1:4 (MIRROR Bible)
- iii – James 1:4 (Classic Amplified Bible)
- iv – See 1 Timothy 6:9
- v – James 1:17
- vi – James 1:13
- vii – Job 1:6-12
- viii – SEE James 1:2
- ix – Luke 4:14
- x – James 1:12
- xi – James 1:12